



挑戦者たち!!

巻ノ五

# NARUTO

ナルト

岸

本

斉

史





岸本 齊史

I love movies, so I go see them pretty often. And since I watch movies often, I decided to spend what little money I had to purchase a DVD player. Ho ho ho...now I can enjoy movies with incredibly high image quality and Dolby Digital sound! Or so I thought, except that the movies I wanted to watch hardly ever came out on DVD, so I couldn't watch them anyway.

Recently, however, the popularity of DVDs has finally risen, and more and more DVDs are coming out!! Yes! Except...now I'm so busy drawing manga that I don't have time to watch them, even though I want to! Waah!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2000

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





JUMP COMICS 

# NARUTO

—ナルト—

巻ノ五

挑戦者たち!!

NARUTO



岸本 斉史



おも  
主

な

どう  
登

しょう  
場

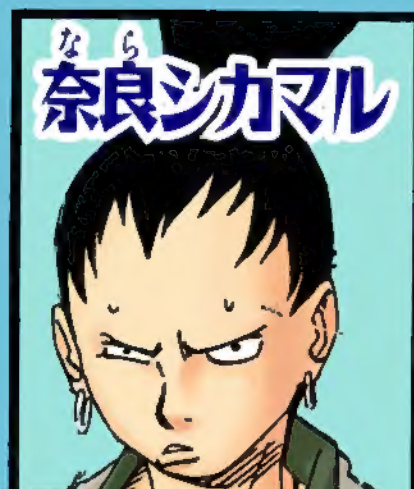
じん  
人

ぶつ  
物

うちは  
サスケ

うずまき  
ナルト

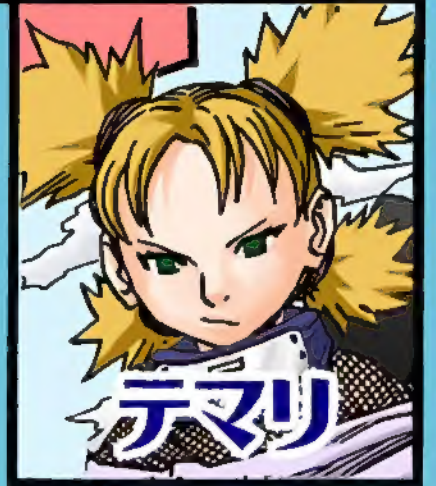
はるの  
春野サクラ







おとにん にんぐみ  
音忍三人組



## THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The Hokage, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of ninjutsu with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke. Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura have been nominated by their instructor Kakashi to take the Junior Ninja Selection Exams, which they must pass to advance to the next level of ninja training. The village is crawling with student ninja from villages near and far, who are all determined to ace the exams. On their way to turn in the applications, they observe their fellow students' advanced skill and training, and Naruto and his class mates begin to suspect that they're in way over their heads...

ぜんかん  
前巻までのあらすじ



# NARUTO

—ナルト—

## 巻ノ五

ちょうせんしや  
挑戦者たち!!



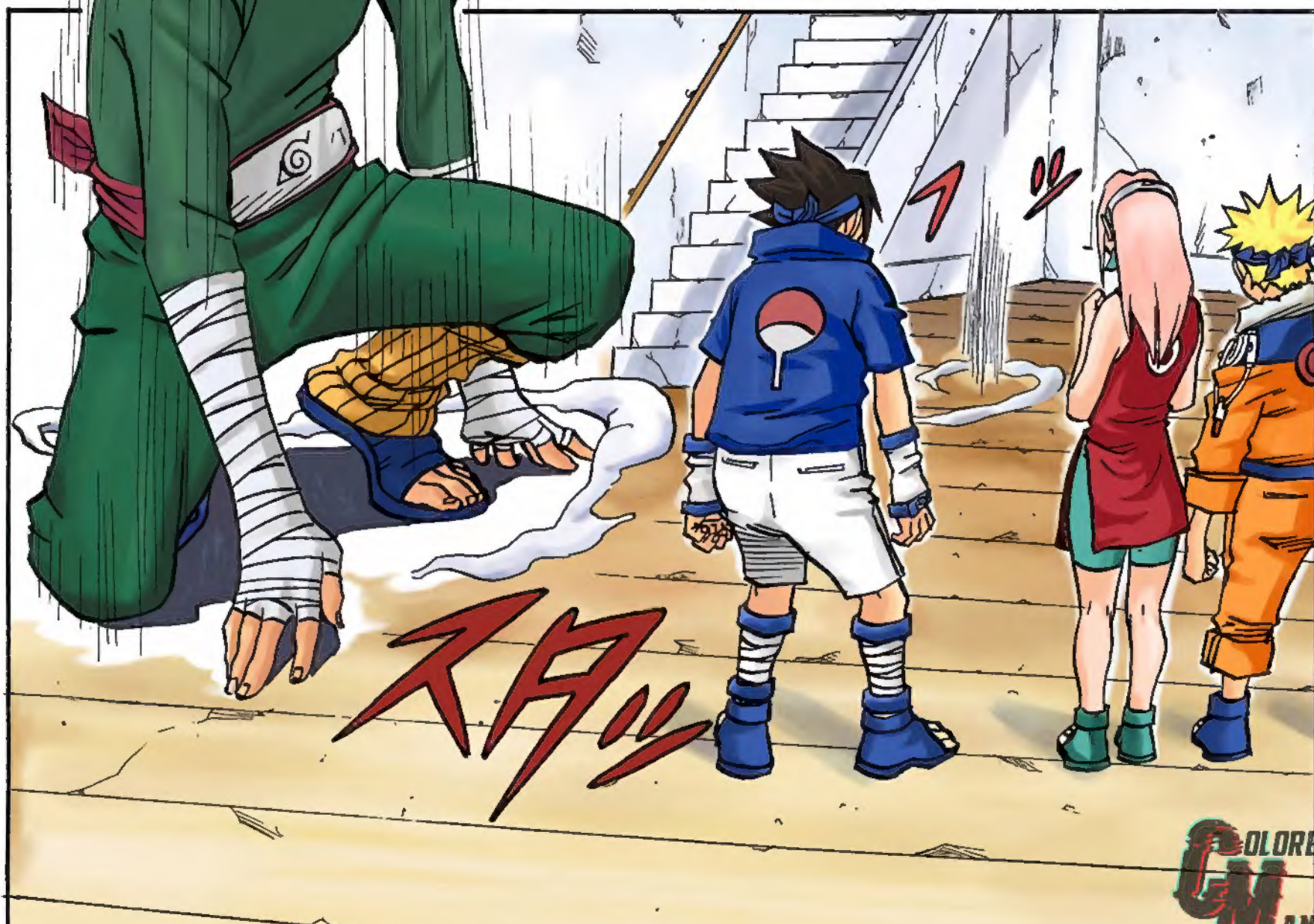
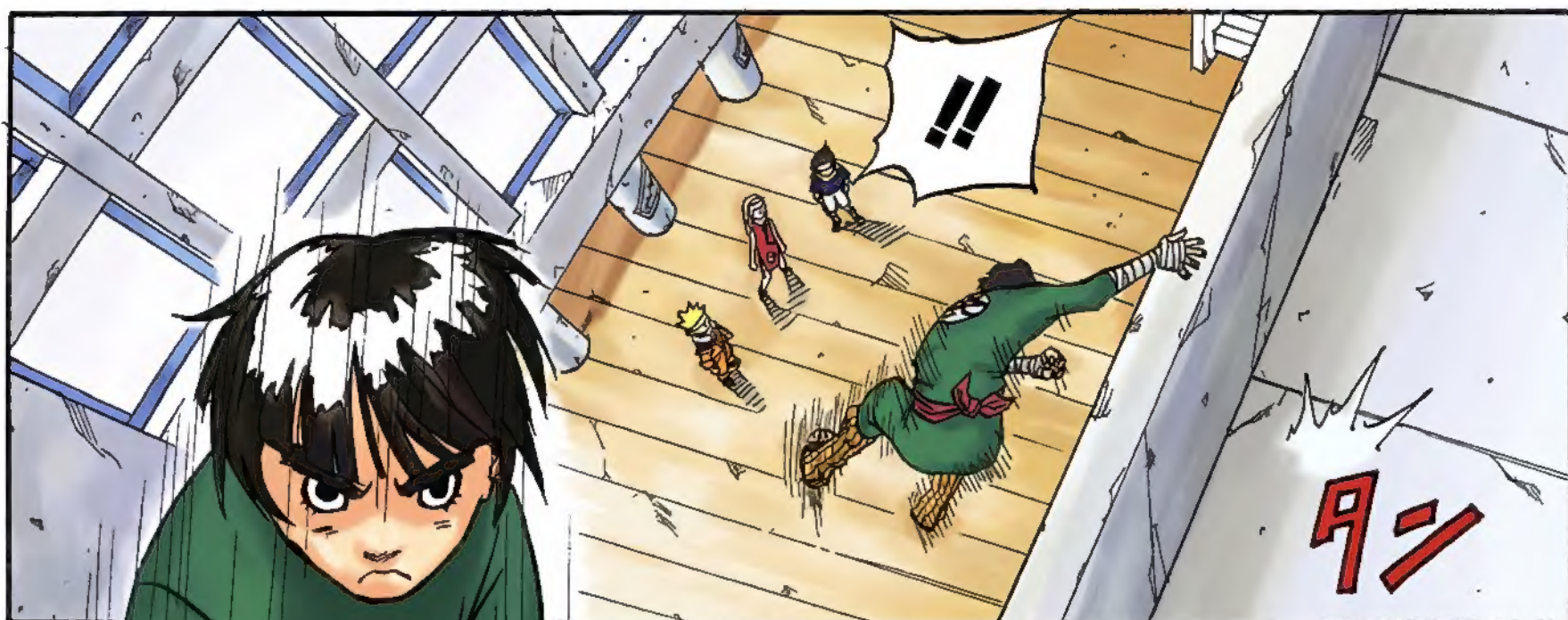
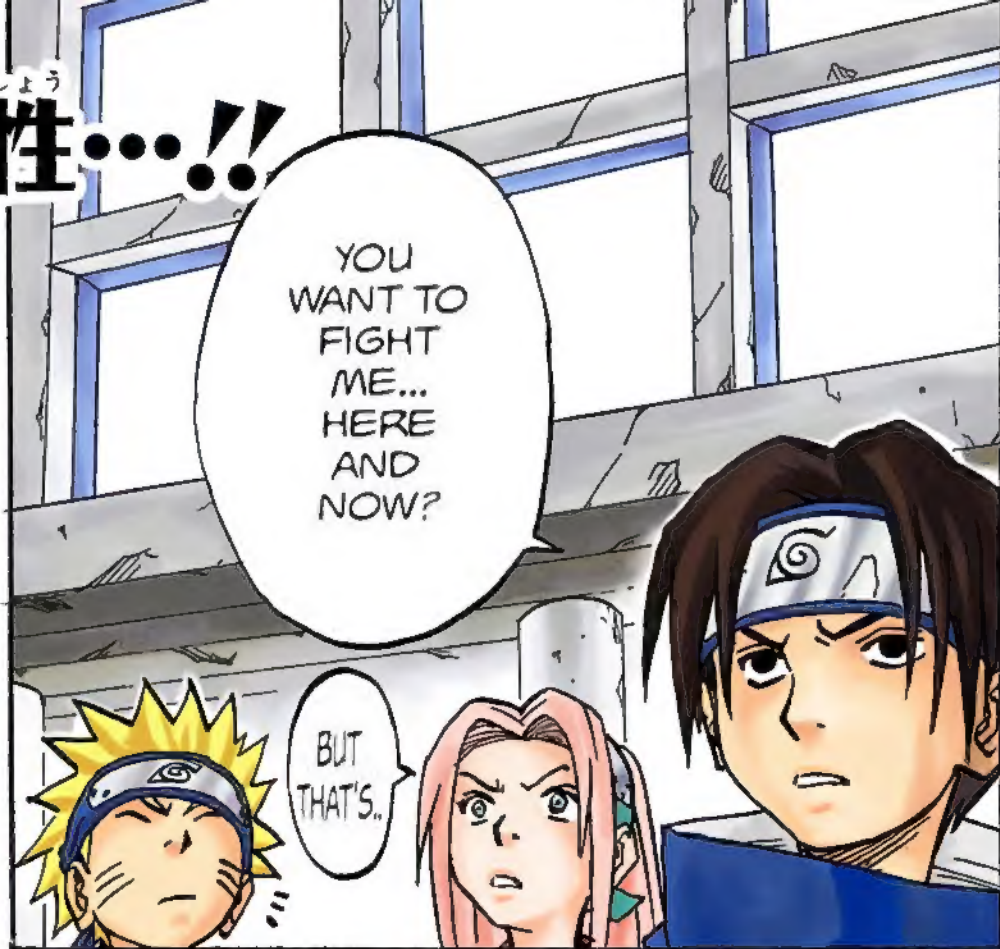
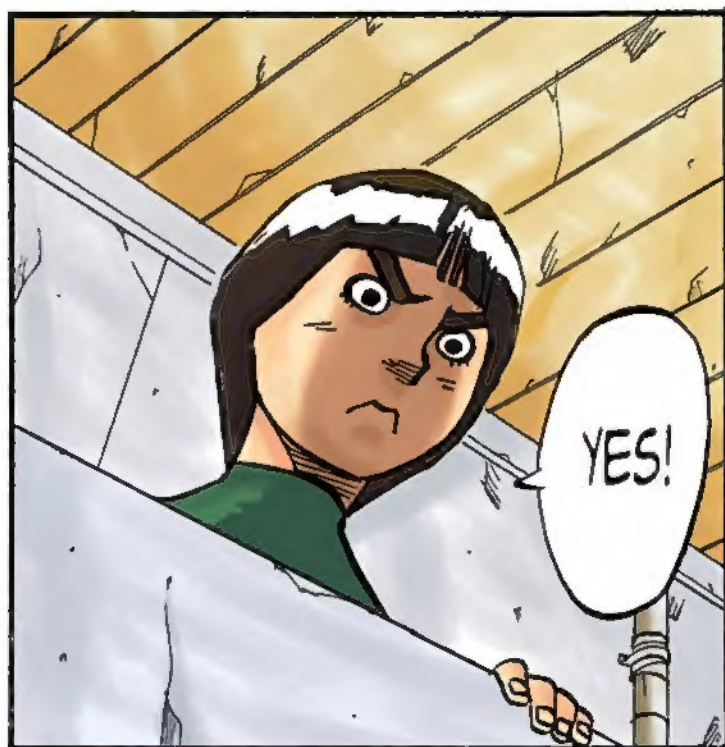
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# 37: 最悪の相性...!!





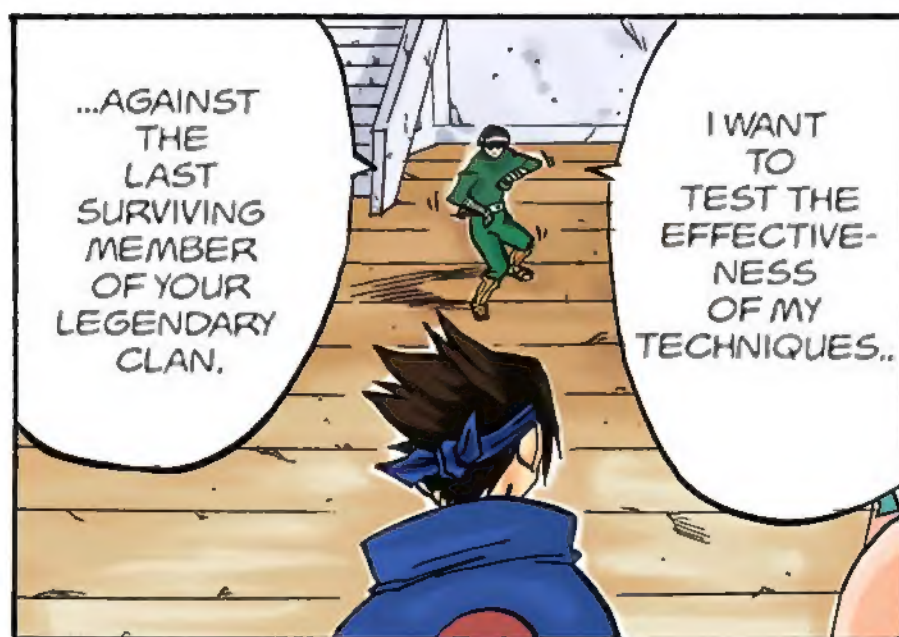
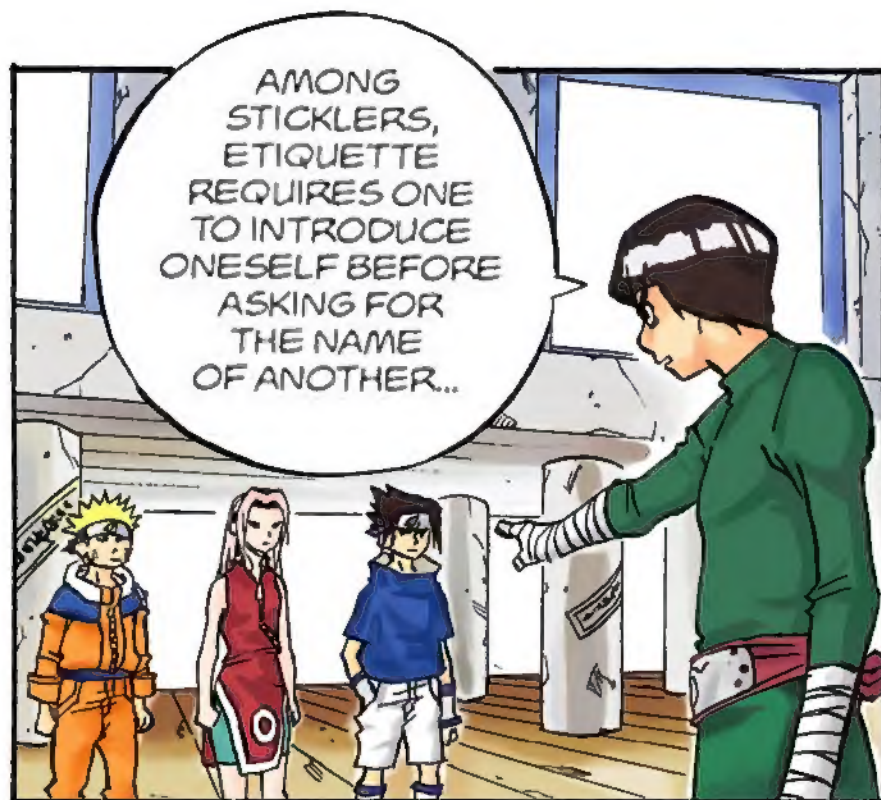
ナンバー

37:

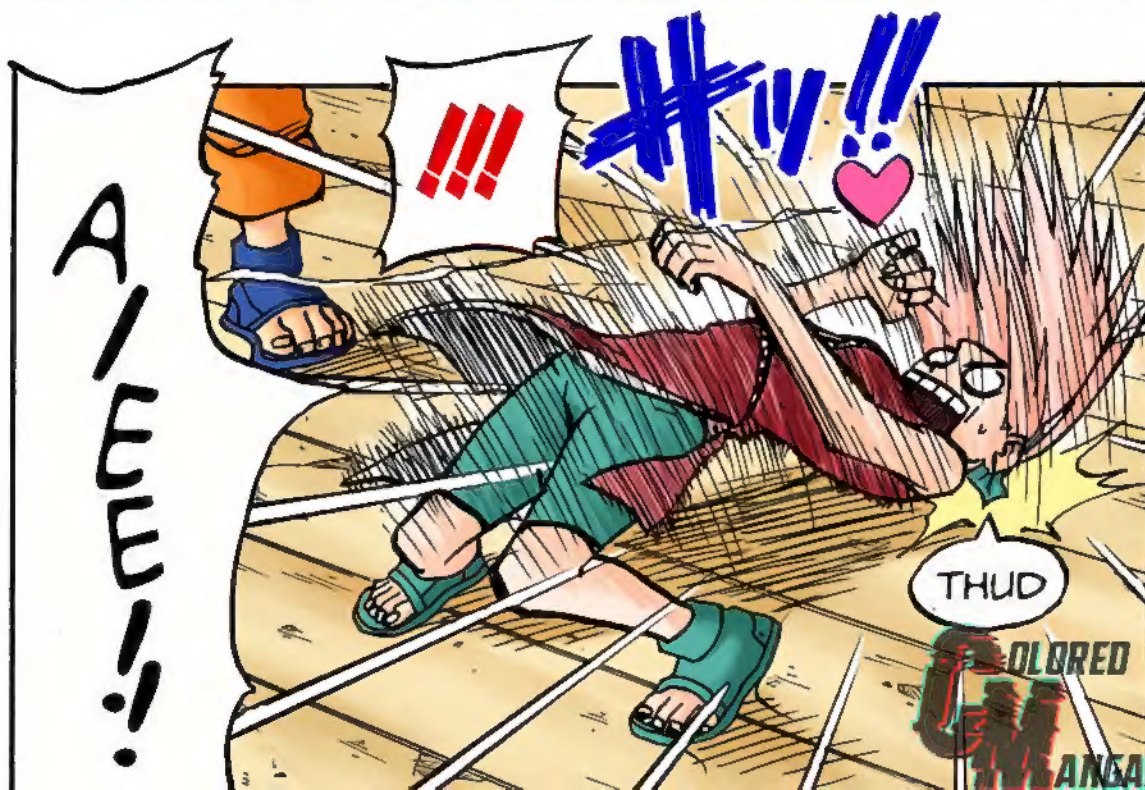
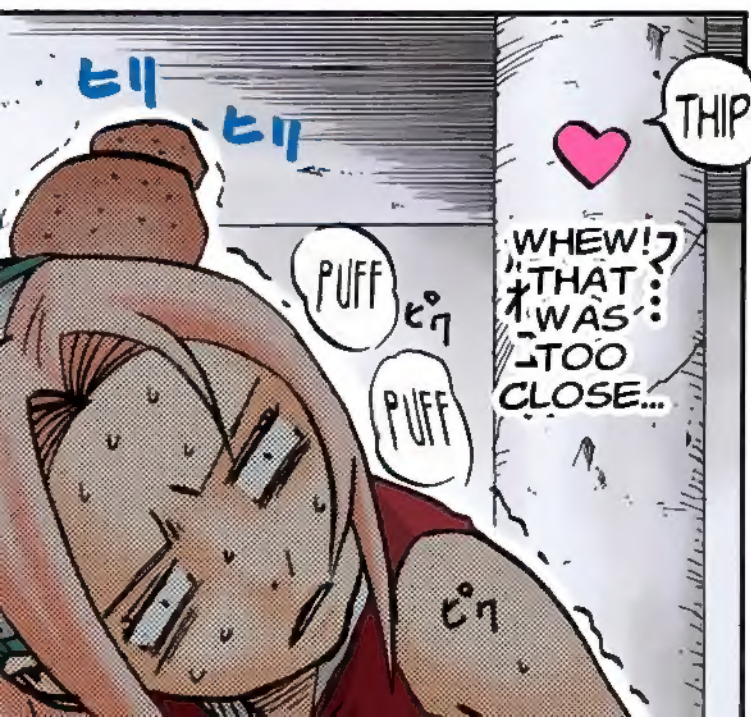
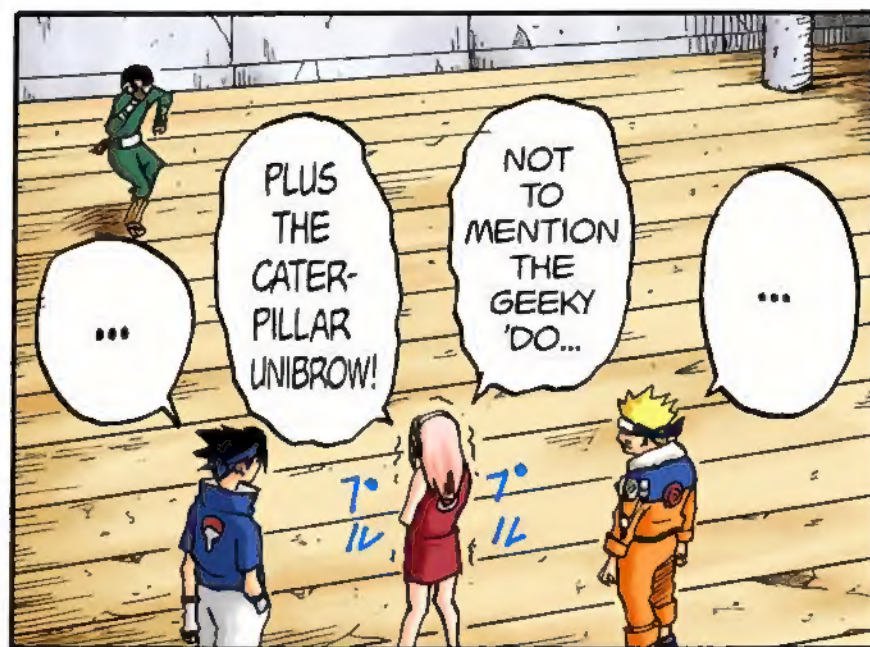
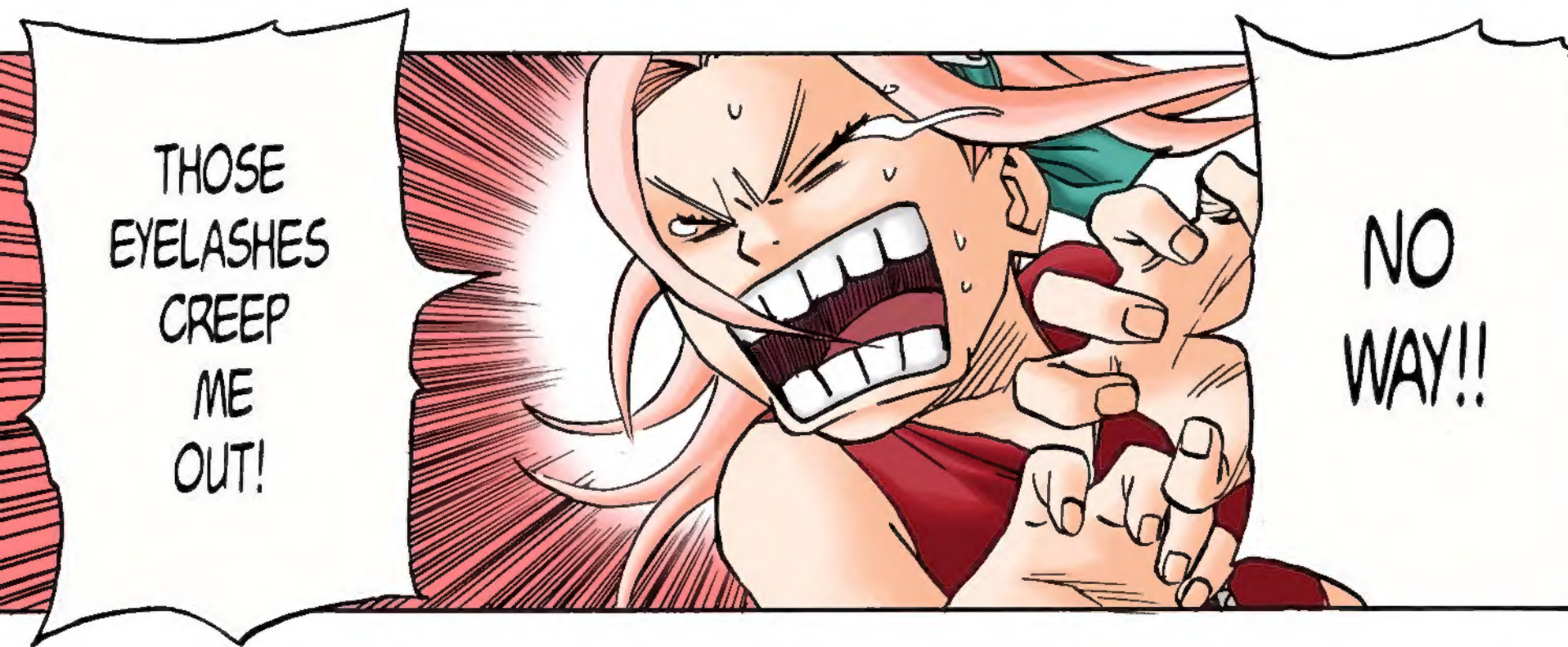
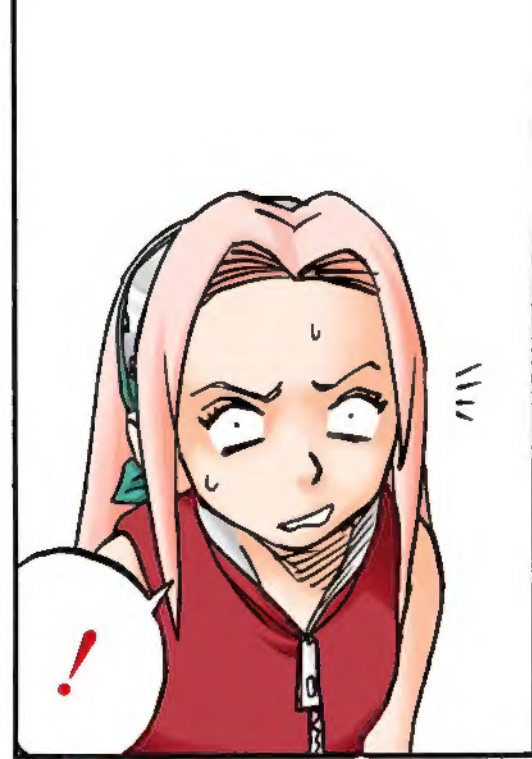
さいあく あいしょう  
最悪の相性...!!  
A TOTAL MISMATCH...!!















SASUKE,  
SASUKE!  
IT'S ALL  
ABOUT  
SASUKE!  
BLEAH!

YOU  
KEEP YOUR  
WEIRD  
KISSES TO  
YOURSELF,  
CREEP!

I COULD  
HAVE  
DIED,  
DODGING  
THAT!!

AW...  
DON'T  
BE LIKE  
THAT...



SO,  
DOG-BROW...  
DO YOU  
REALLY  
WANT TO  
LEARN...

IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,  
YOU'RE  
A FOOL.

SO  
YOU'RE  
CHALLENGING  
ME,  
EVEN  
KNOWING  
MY  
LINEAGE?

...WHAT  
IT  
MEANS  
TO  
BE  
AN  
UCHIHA?

OH,  
YEAH!



NOW YOU'LL  
GET THE  
PROOF  
YOU REQUIRE,  
MASTER GUY!

HOLD  
IT.

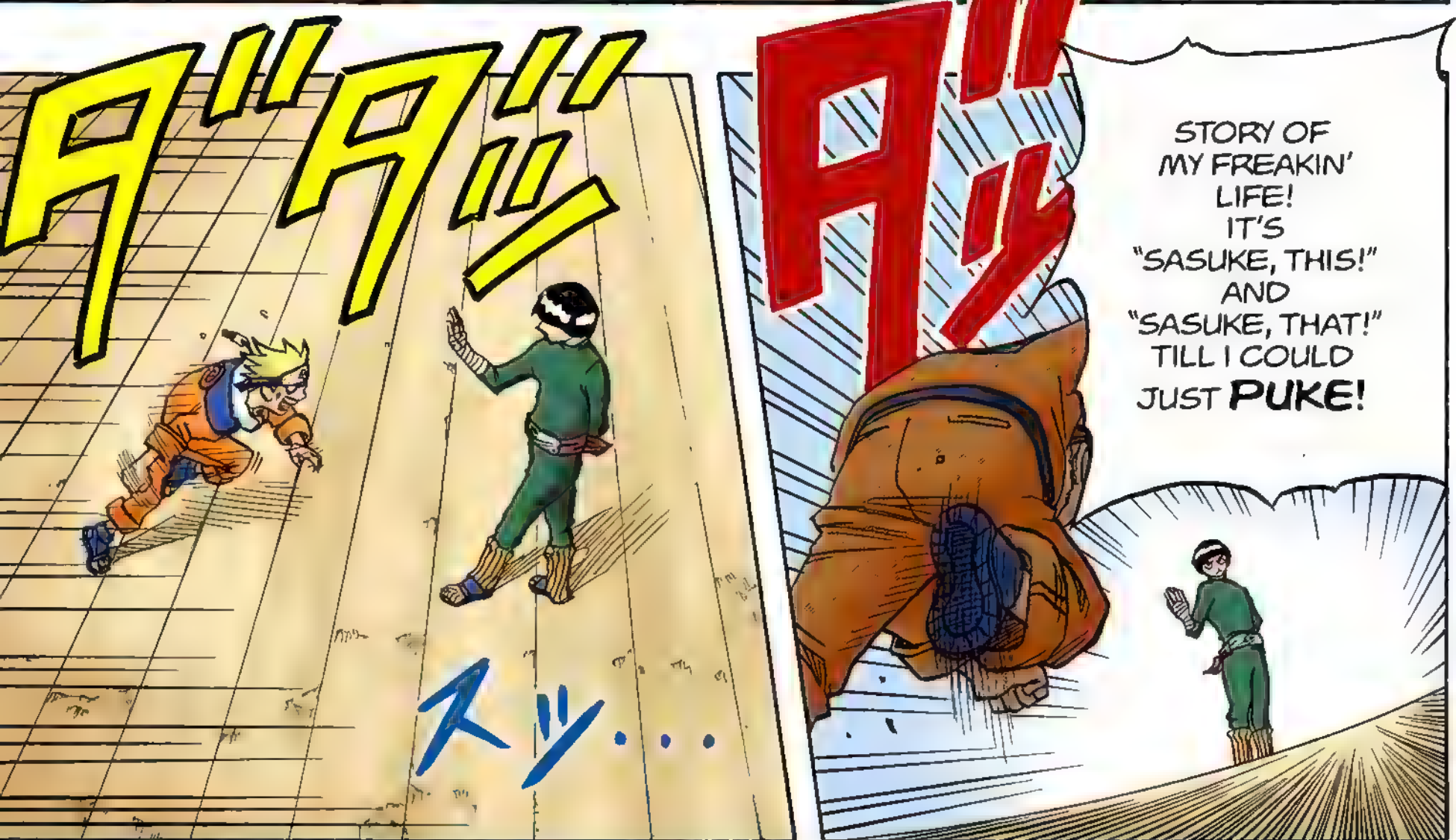
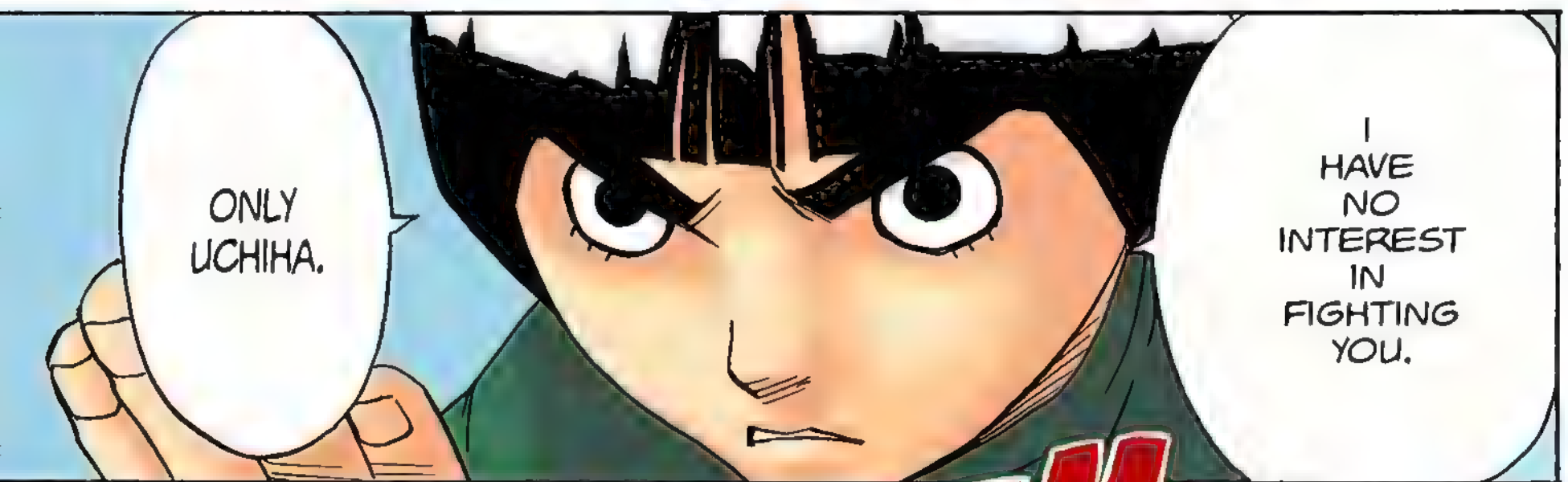
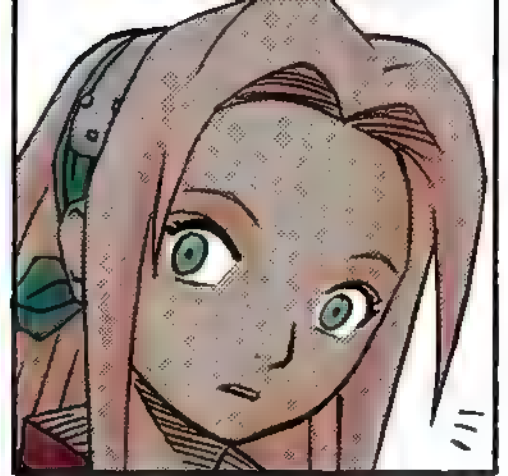


ABSOLUTELY!

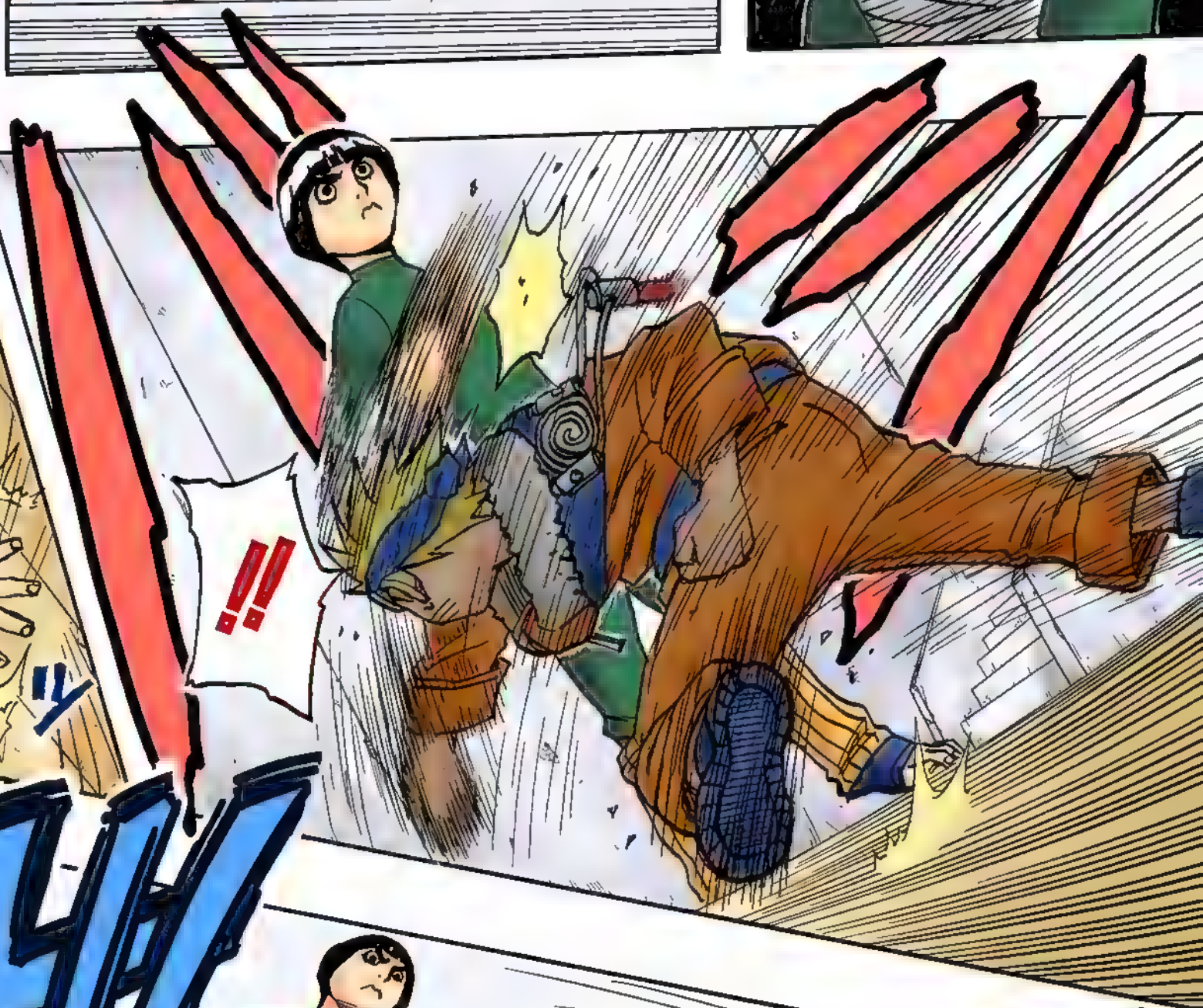
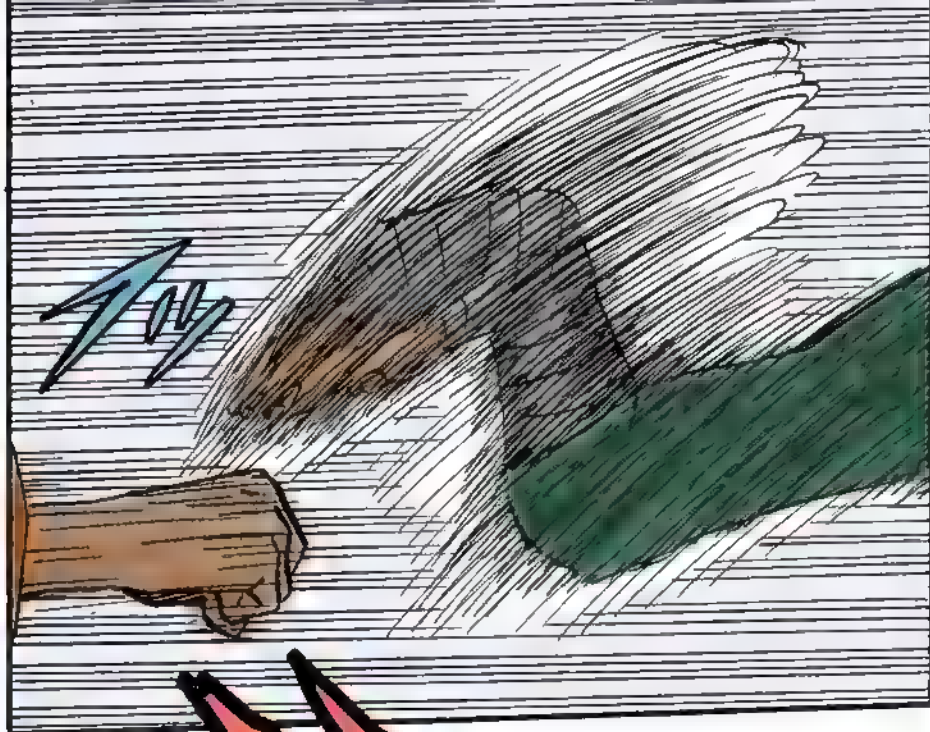
I'M GOING  
TOE-TO-TOE  
WITH THE  
CREAM OF  
THE  
ROOKIE  
CROP,  
FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME-OUT!

I CAN  
HARDLY  
WAIT!  
てる

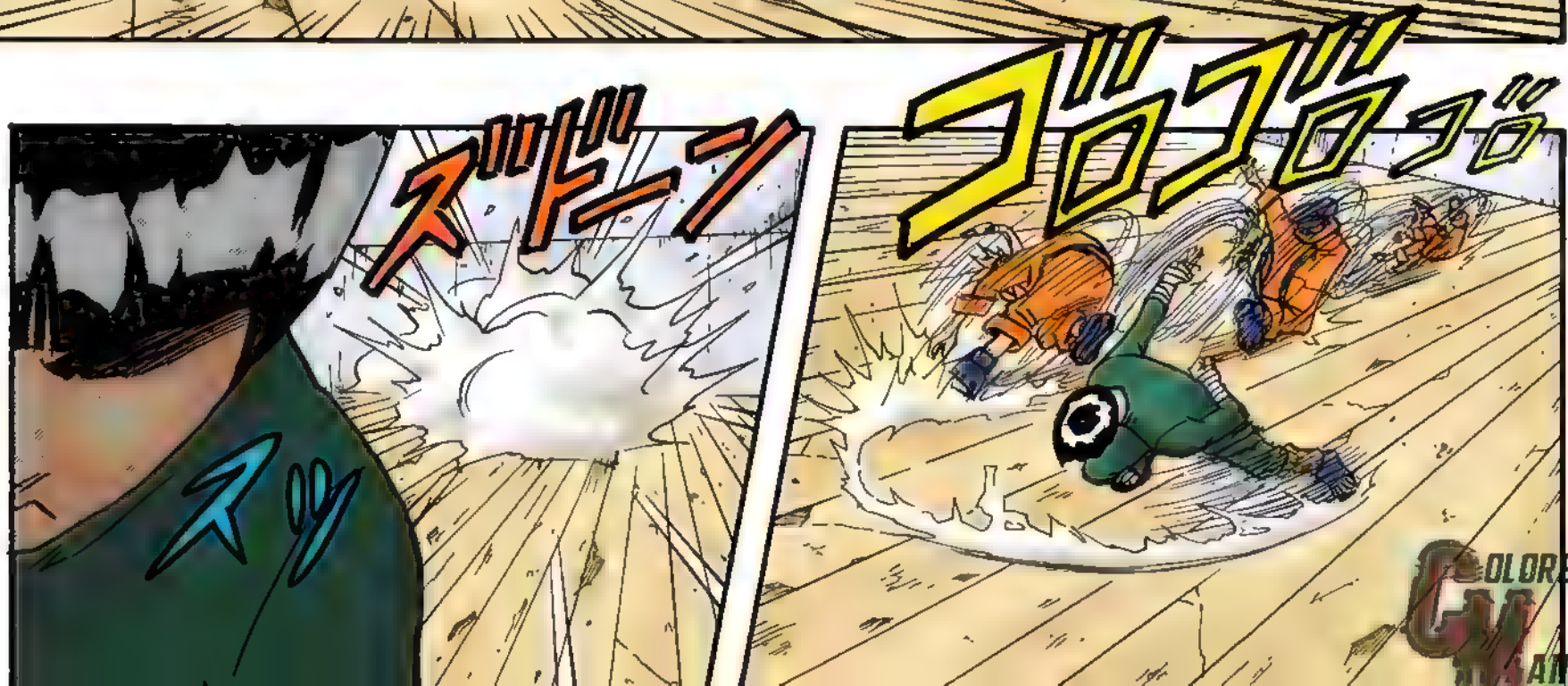
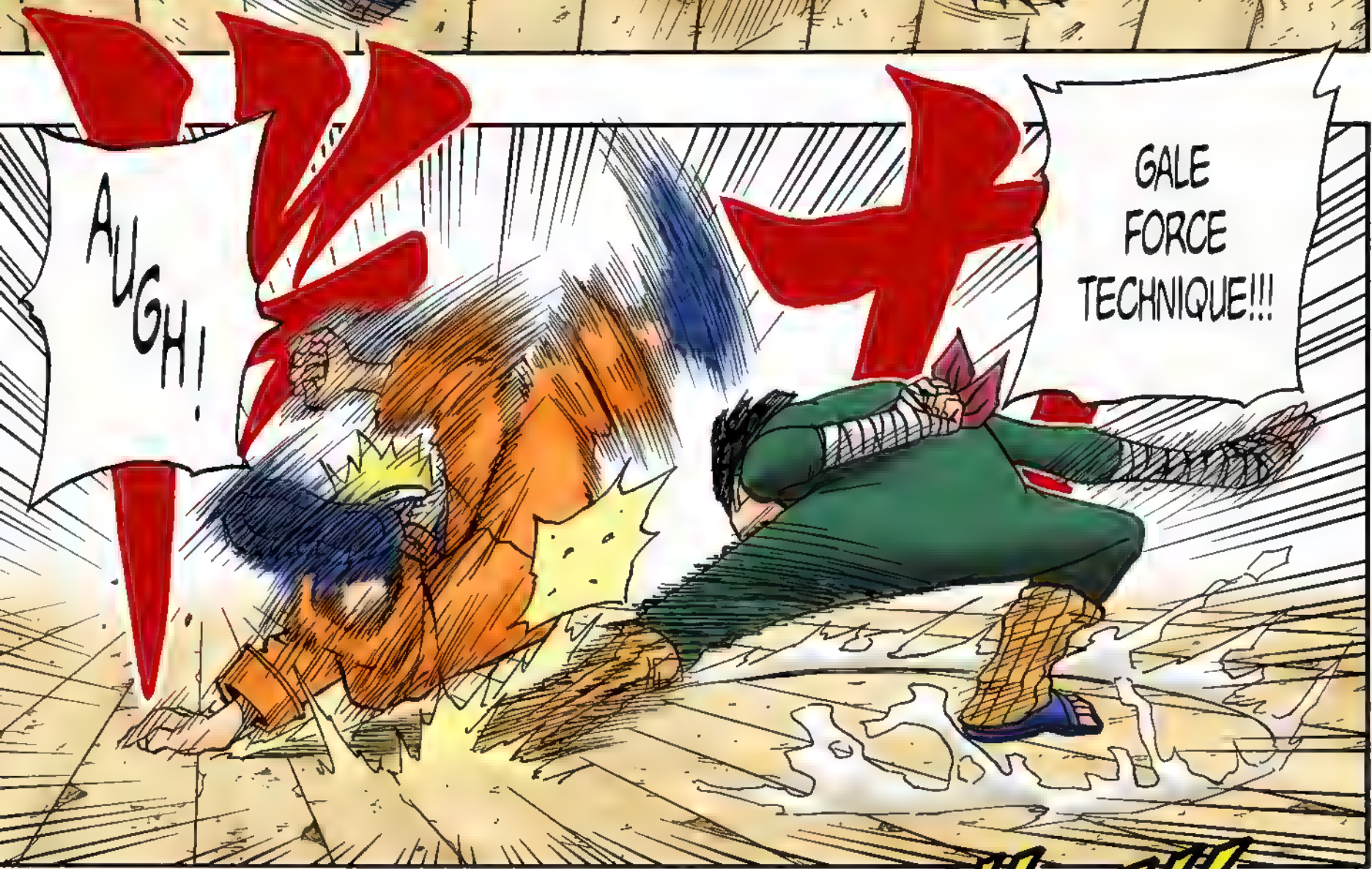








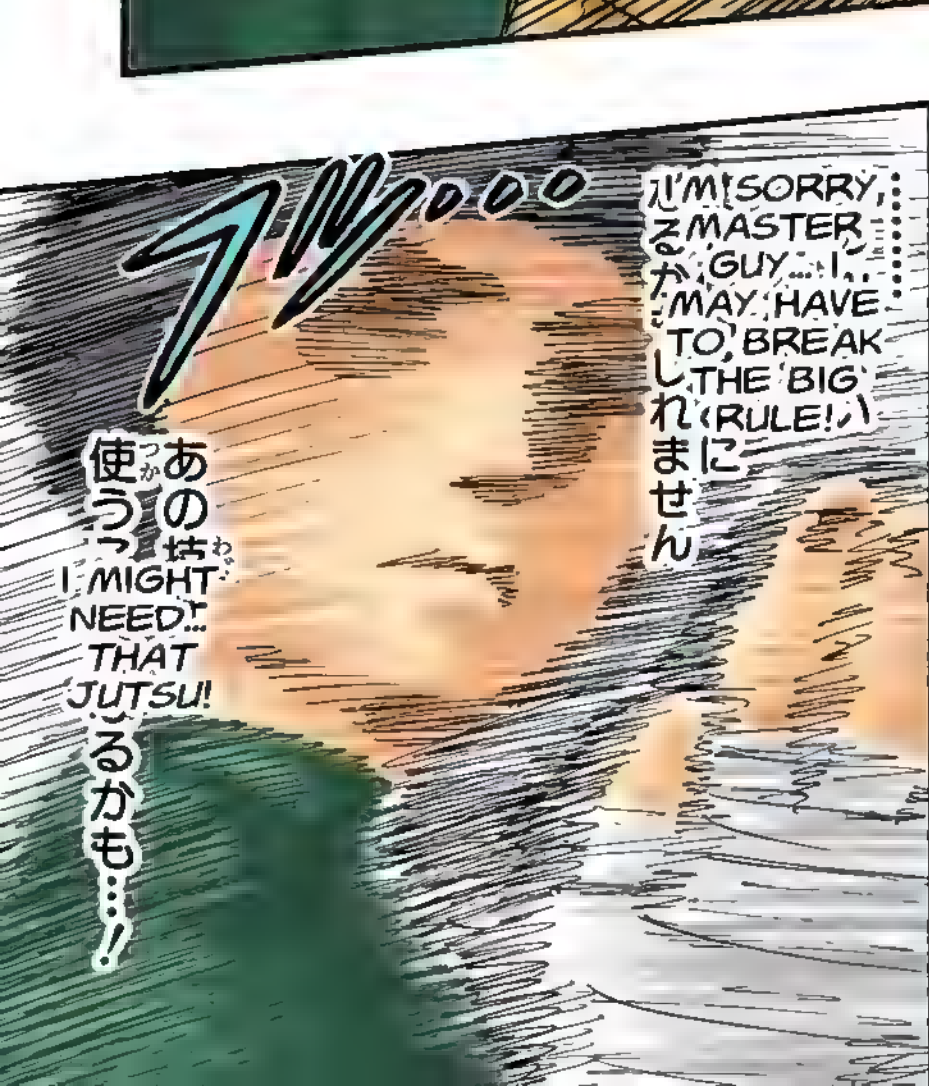
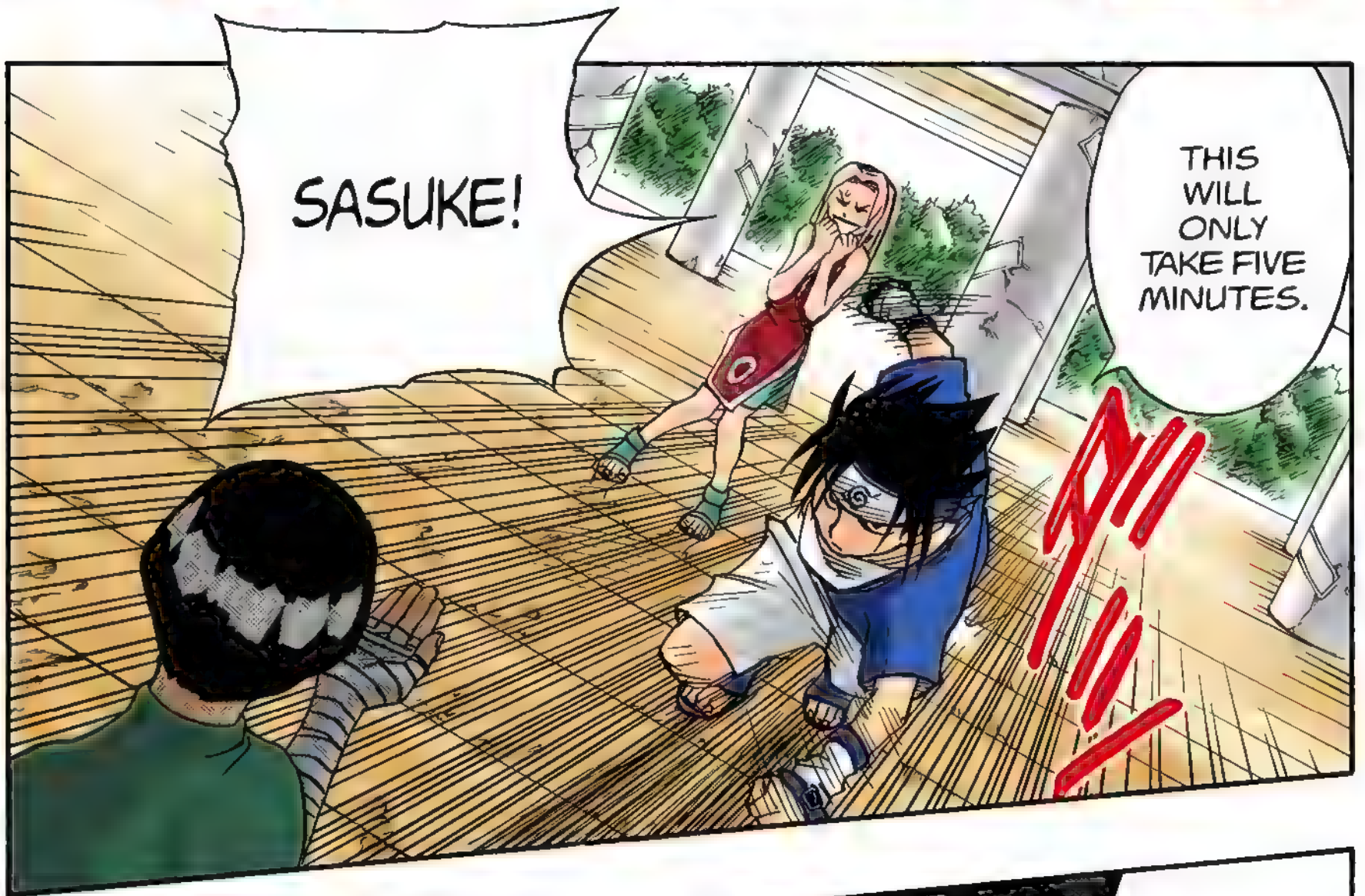
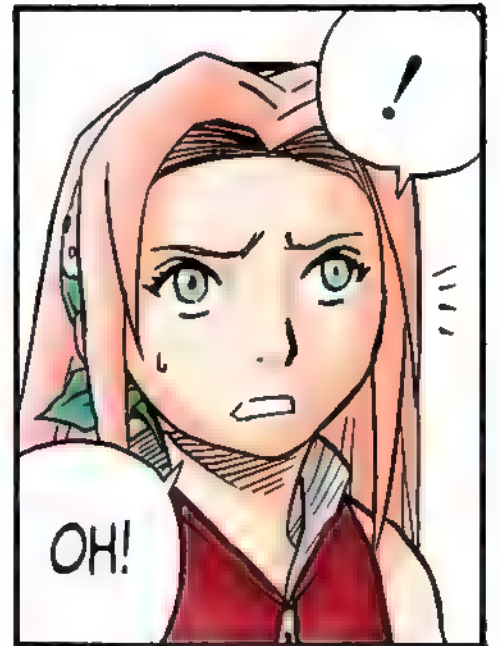
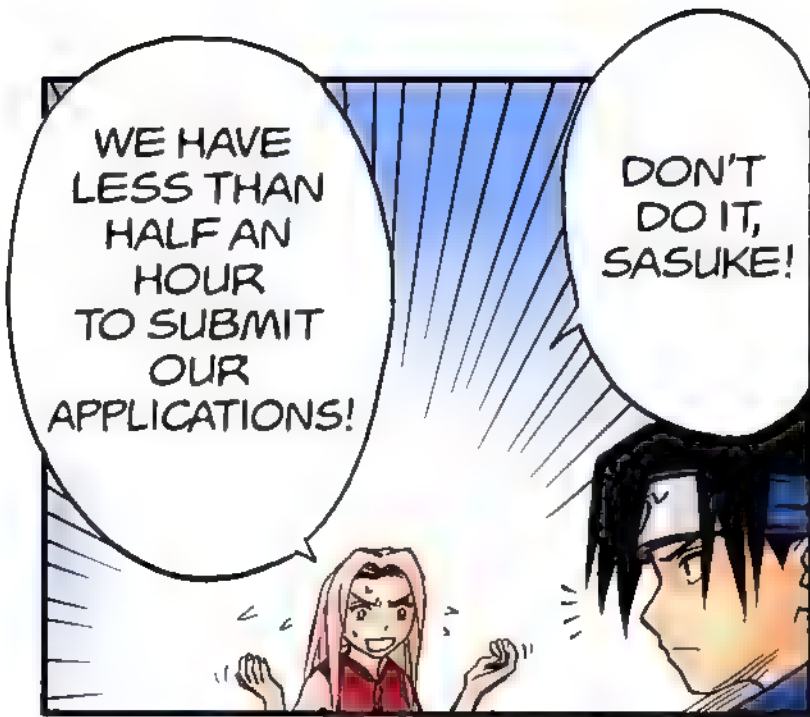




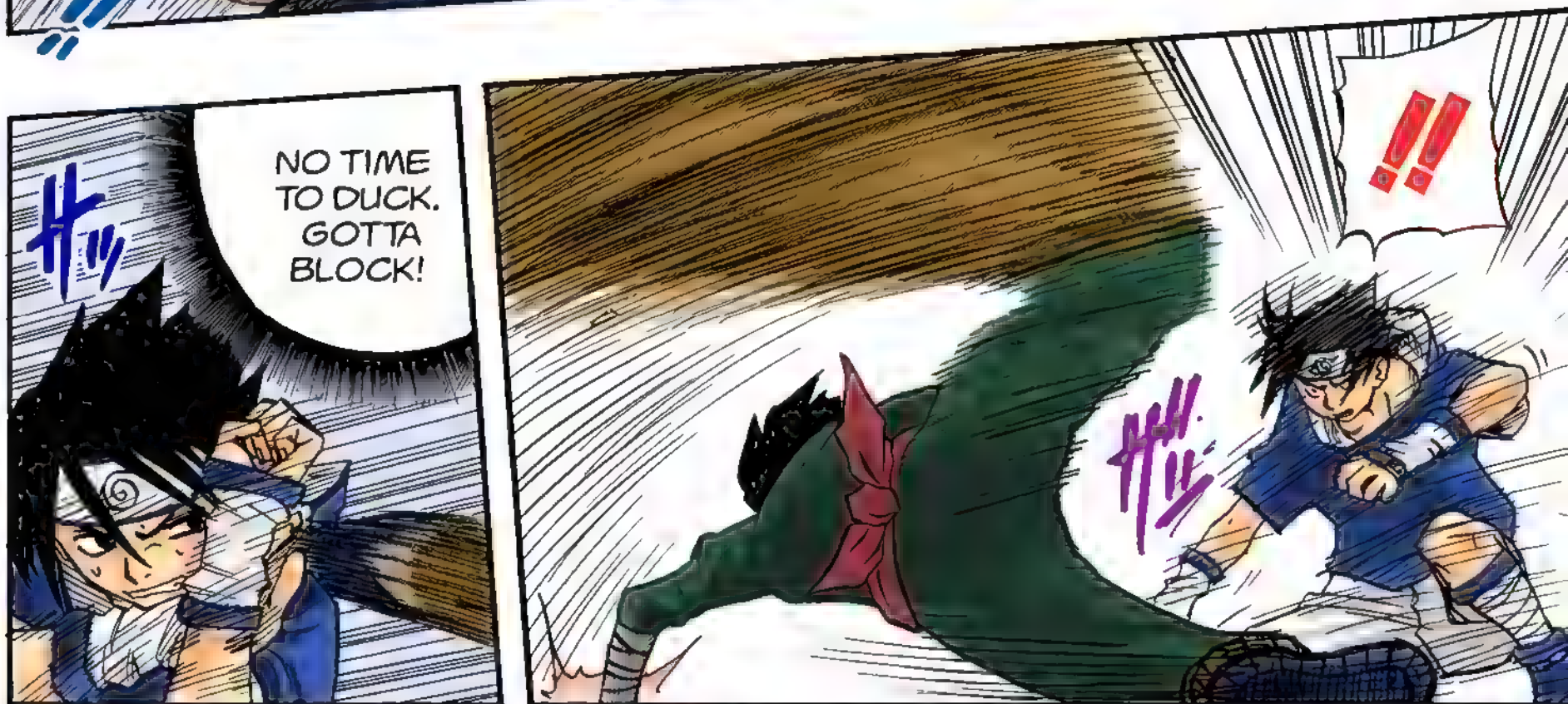
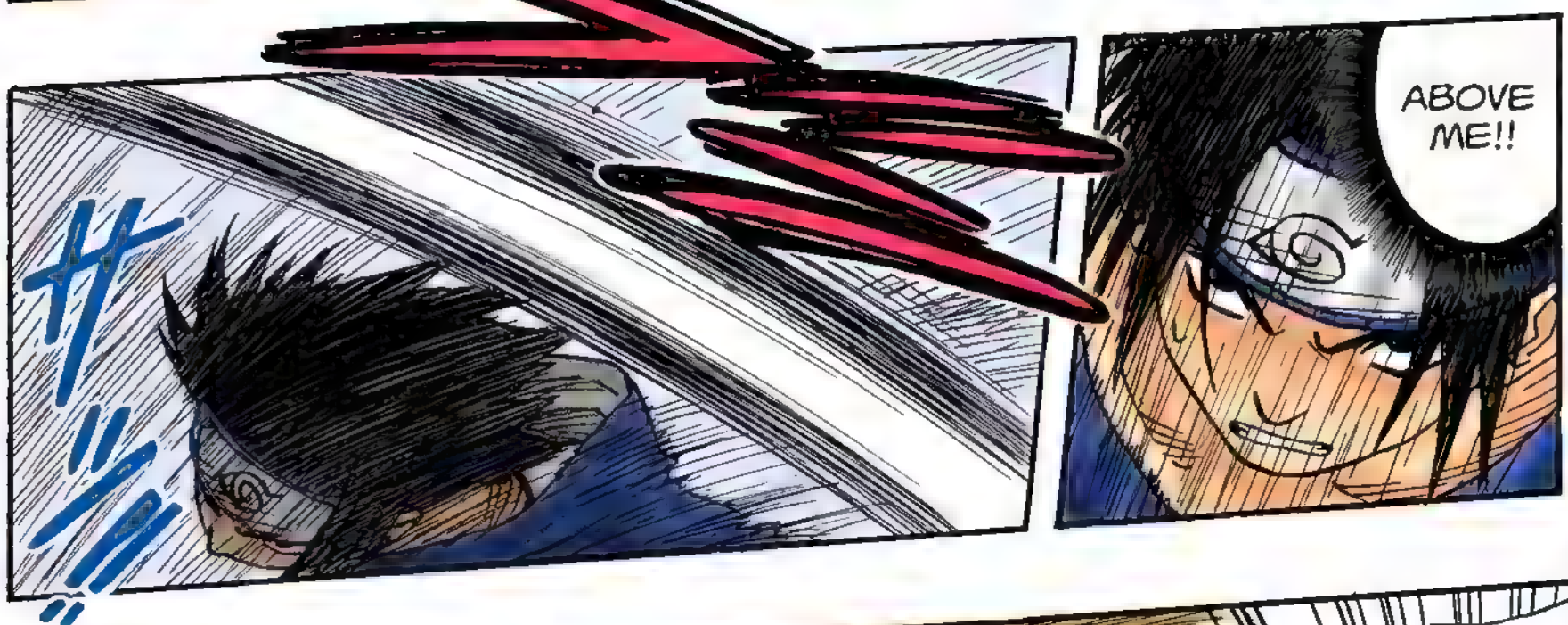
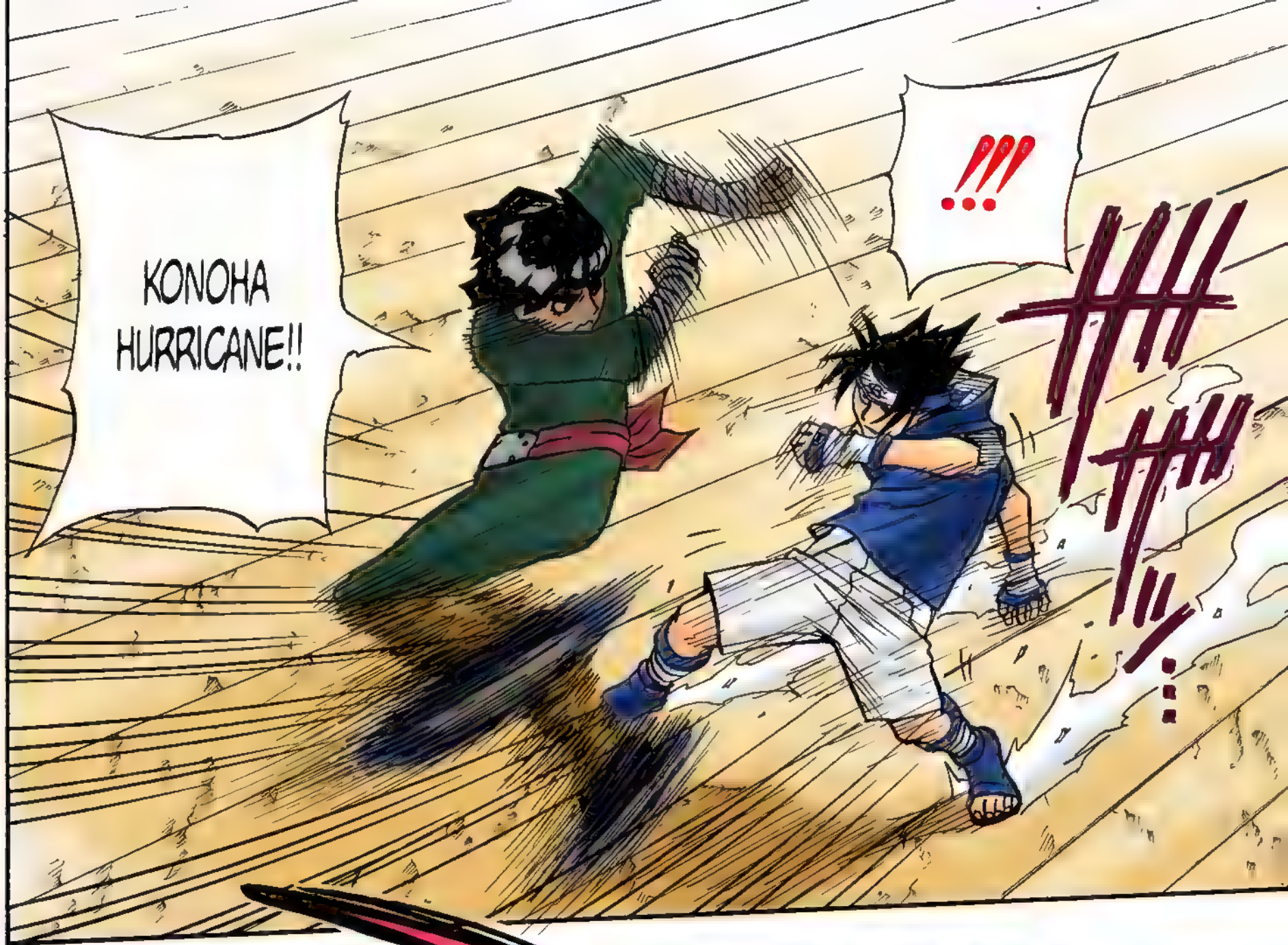




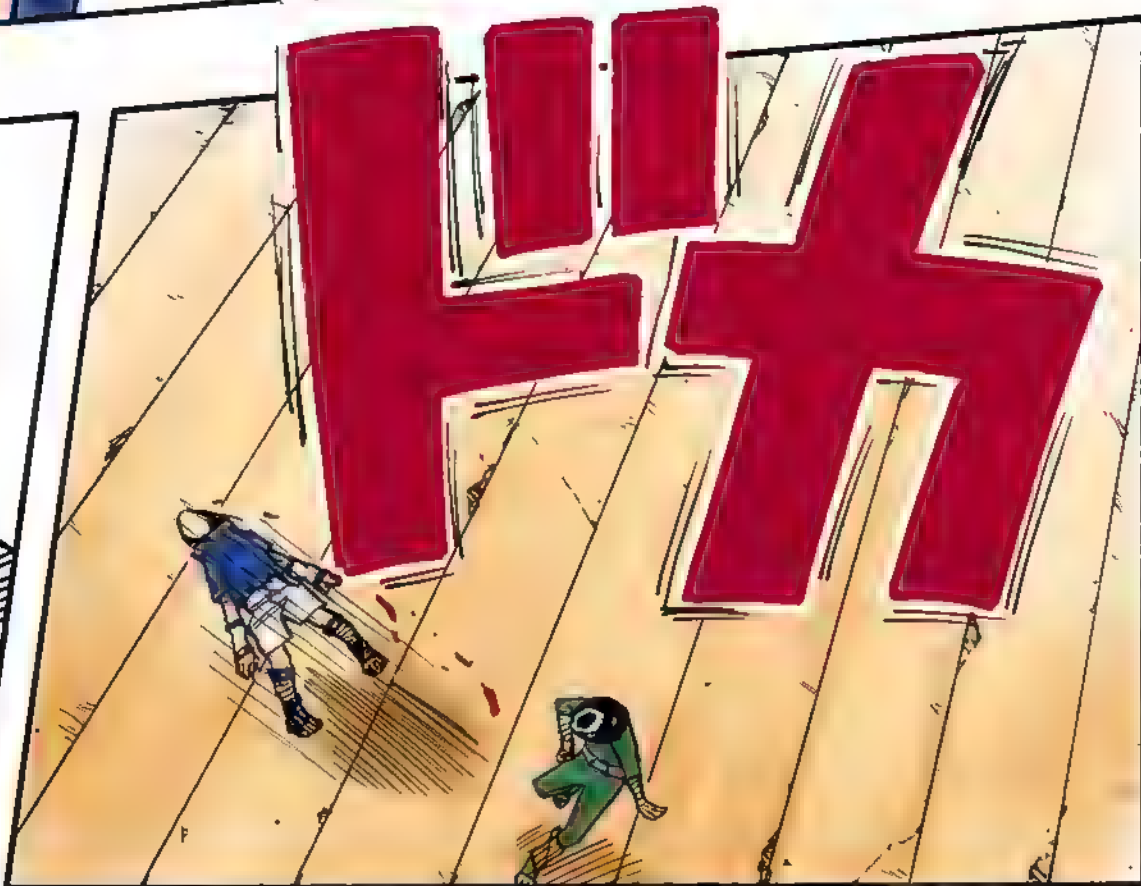
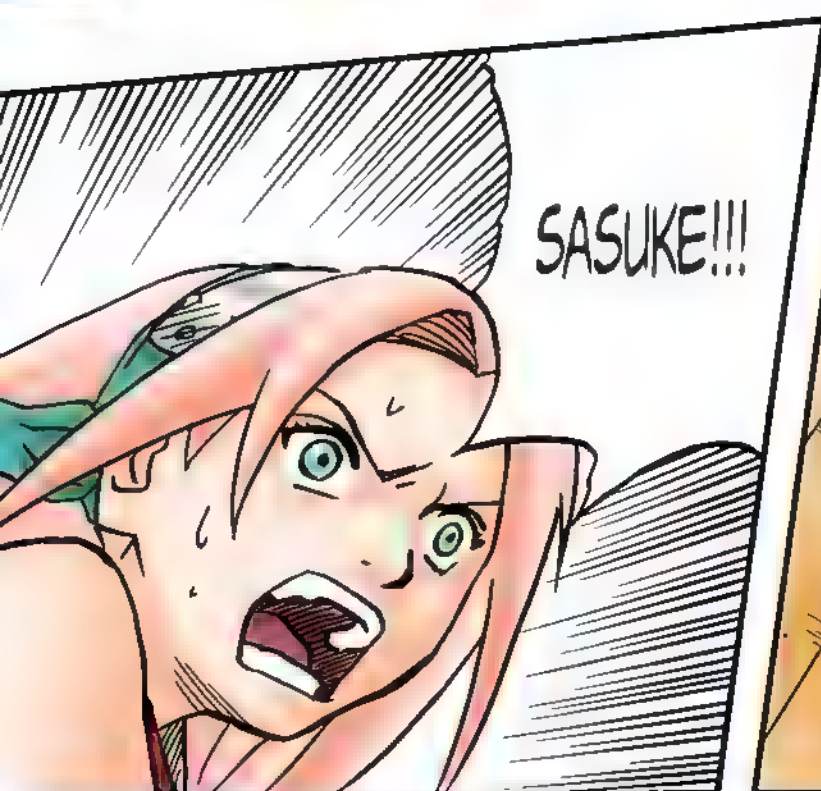
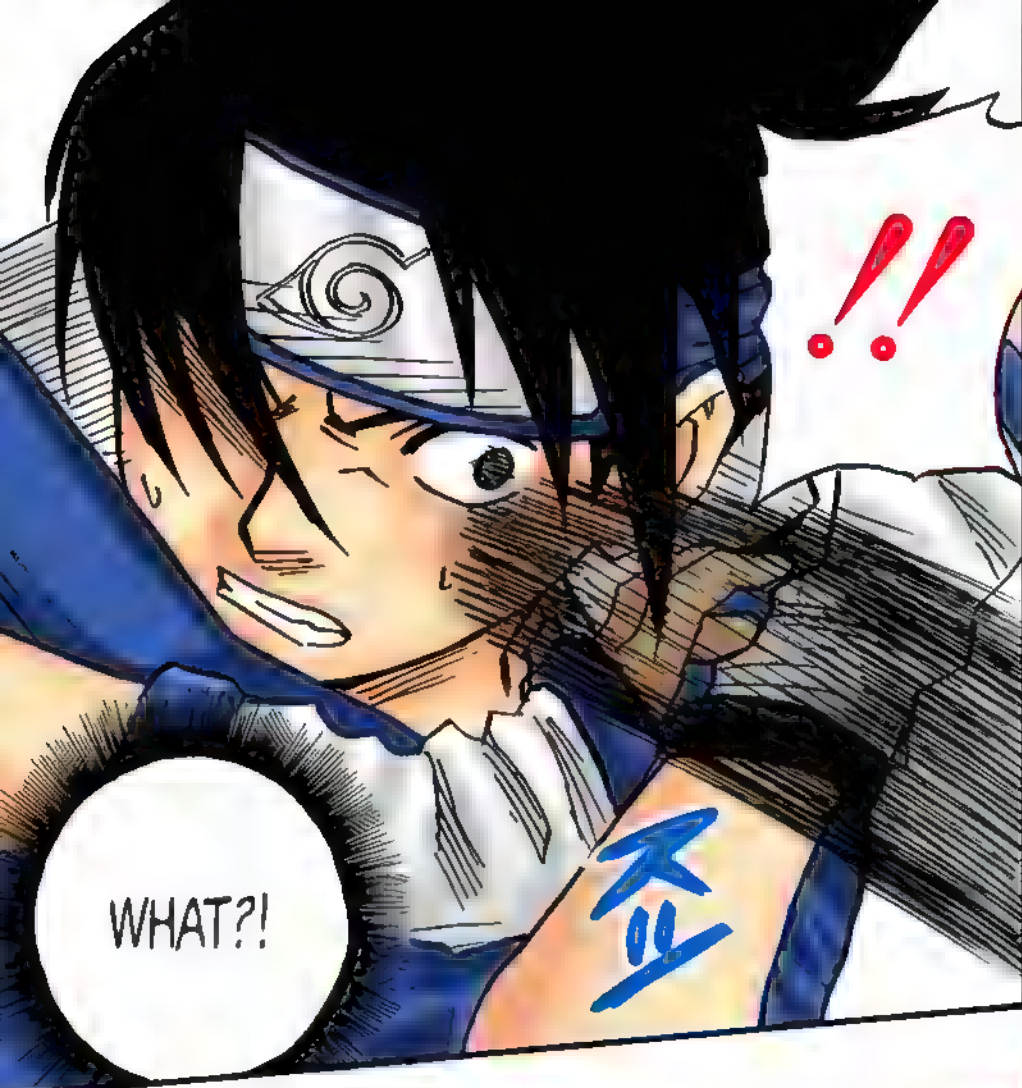




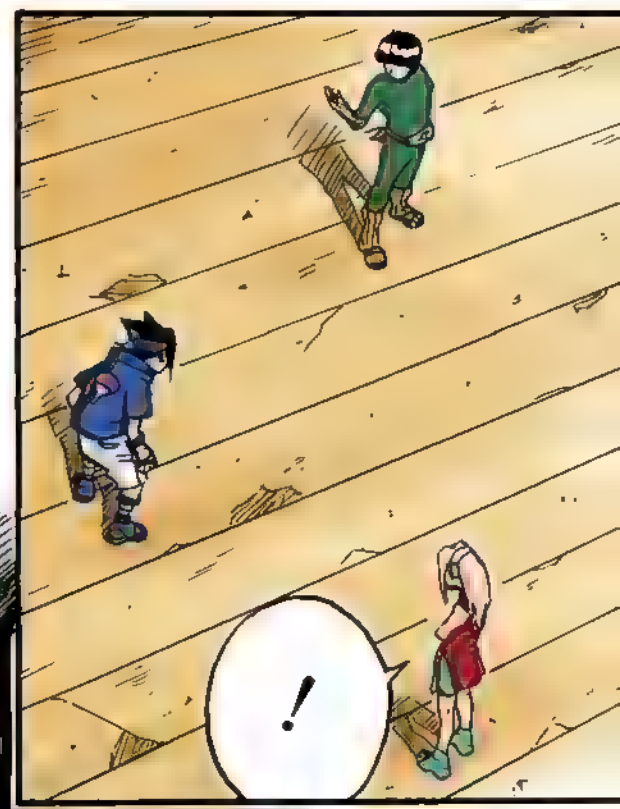
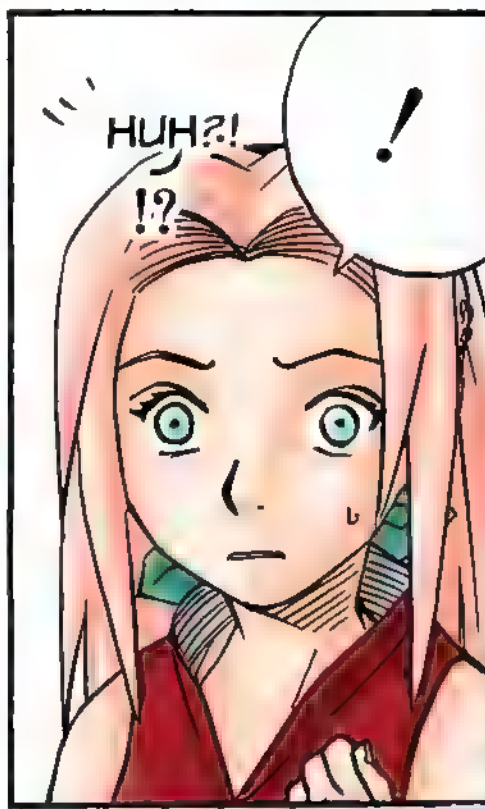




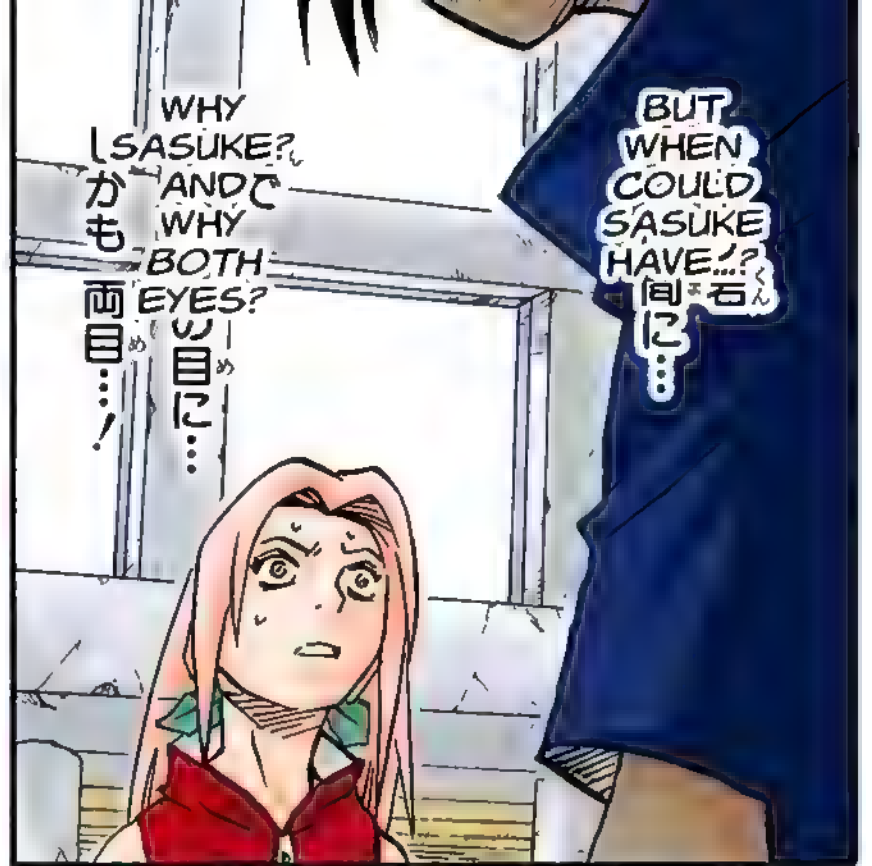
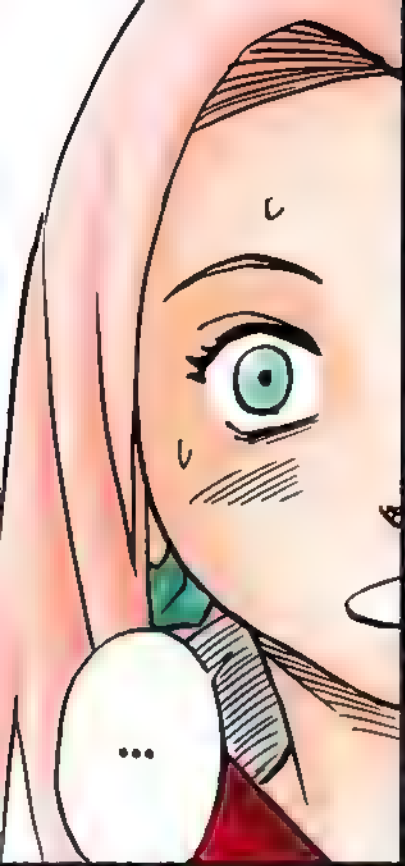








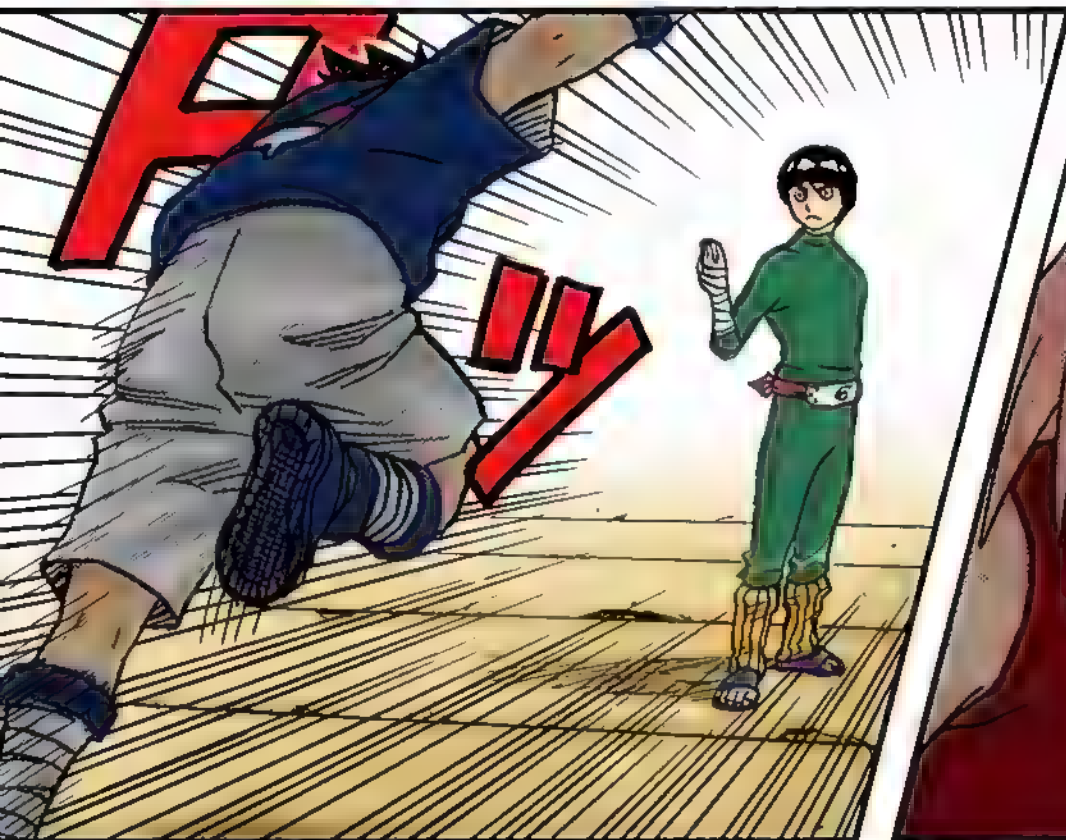




SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS SHARINGAN...  
ですか...

WHY SASUKE? AND WHY BOTH EYES?  
かも両目...!

BUT WHEN COULD SASUKE HAVE...?  
何に...



IF THIS IS THE SAME KIND OF GENETIC KEKKEI GENKAI SKILL THAT MASTER KAKASHI HAS, SASUKE CAN PENETRATE THE SECRETS OF DOG BROW'S TECHNIQUES!  
ける!!

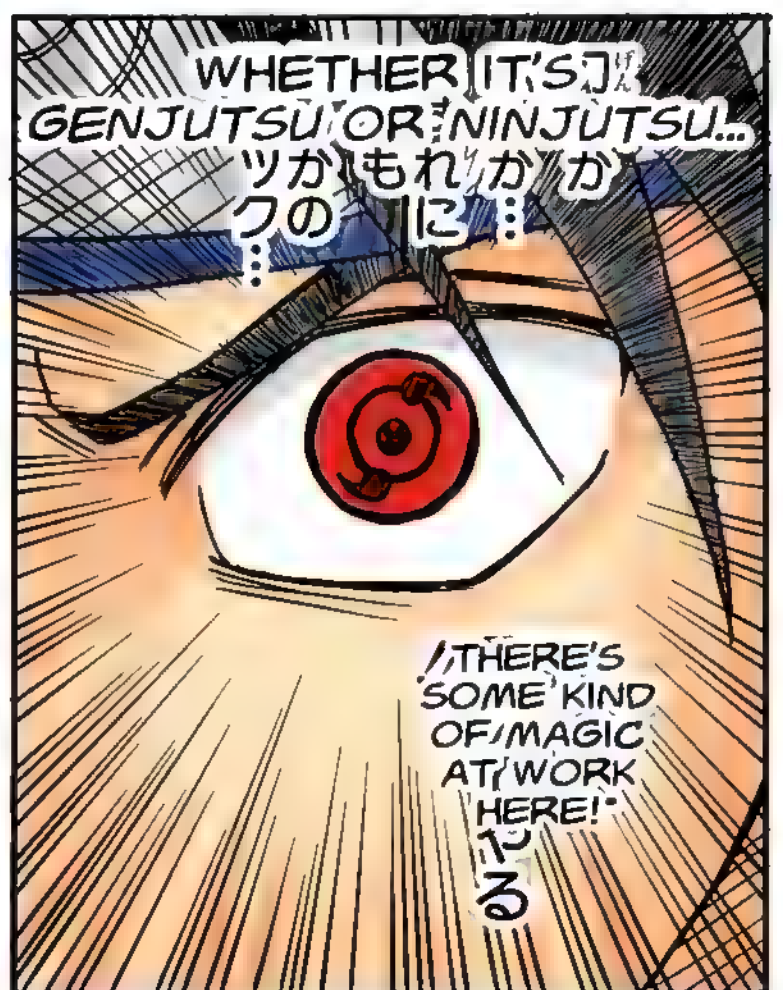
OH, SASUKE! HE'S THE BEST!



THERE'S NO WAY SOME SLIMY RUNT COULD BEAT HIM!

AND SASUKE'S GONNA TAKE IT APART!!

HE'S GETTING STRONGER ALL THE TIME. IT MUST BE HIS UCHIHA BLOOD!



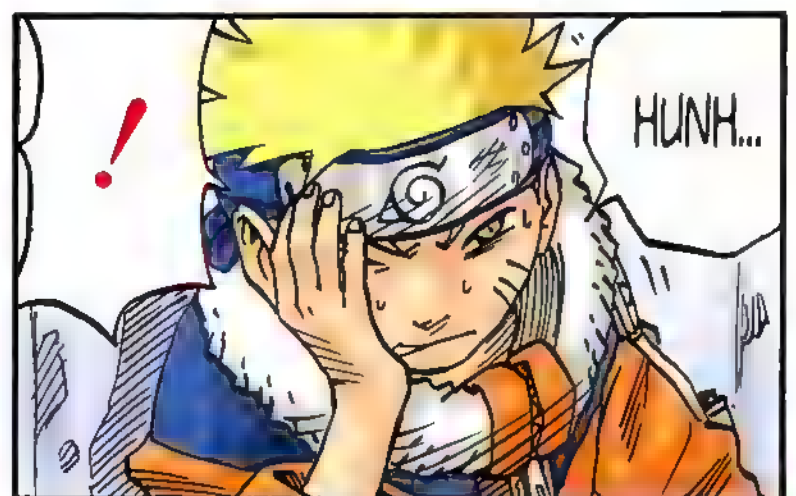
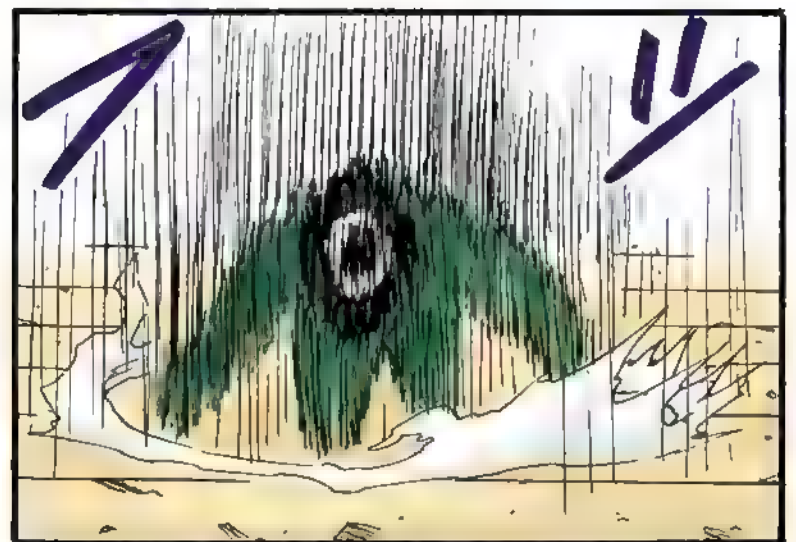
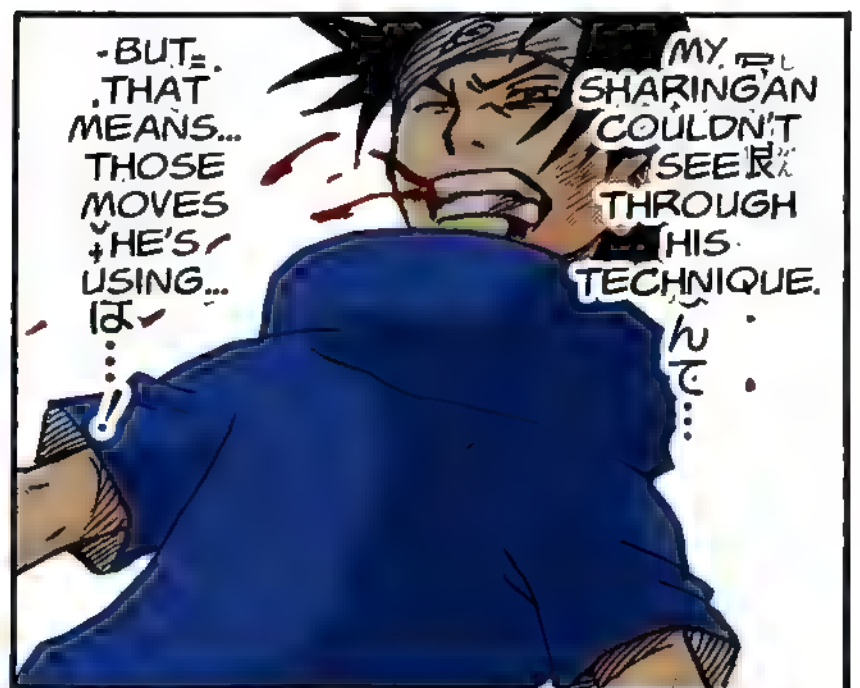
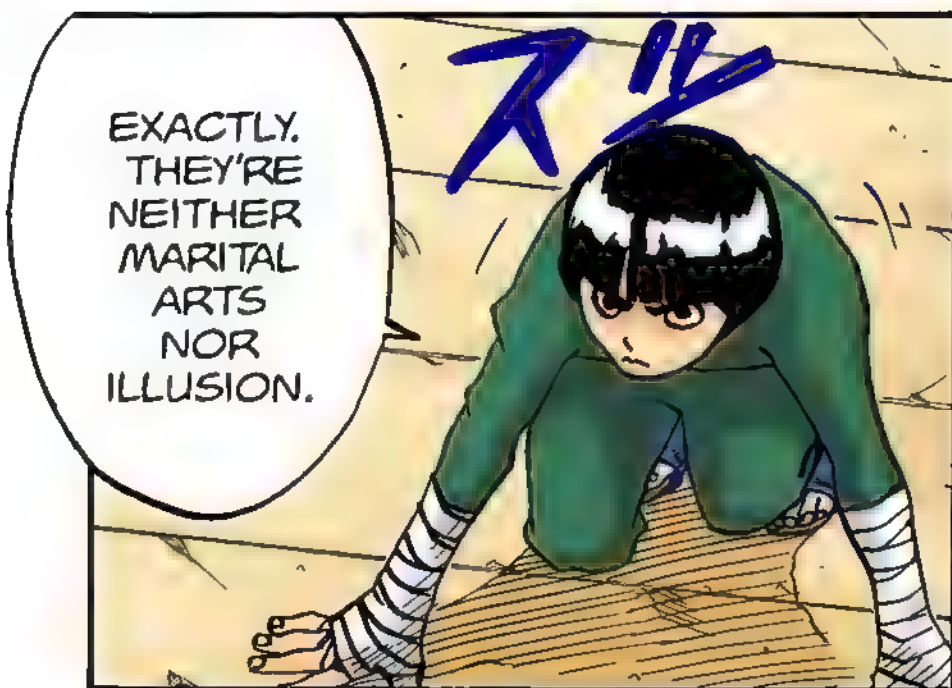
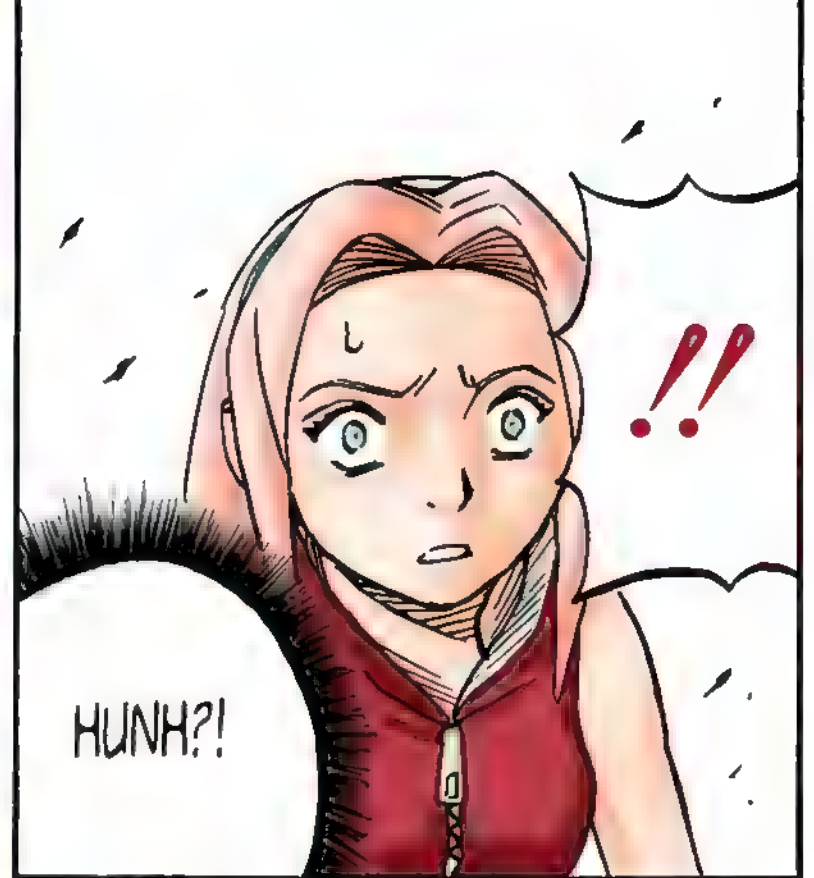
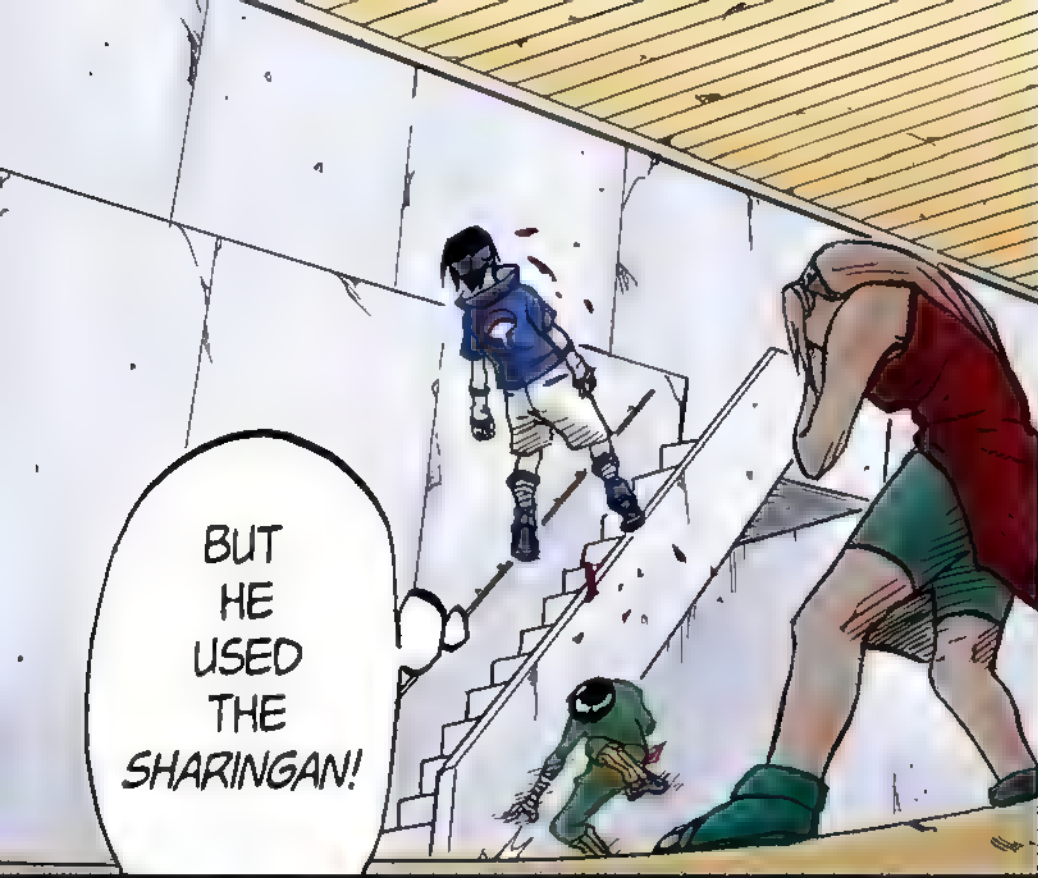
WHETHER IT'S GENJUTSU OR NINJUTSU...  
ツかもれかか  
つの...

THERE'S SOME KIND OF MAGIC AT WORK HERE!  
る









\*ONE OF KONOHA-STYLE'S TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL ARTS: THE WARRIOR VISUALIZES HIS OPPONENT AS A WIND-TOSSED LEAF, AND THE WARRIOR PURSUES THAT LEAF BY MOVING AS THOUGH HE WERE ITS SHADOW.





HARD  
AS  
YOU  
MAY  
FIND  
IT  
TO  
ACCEPT...

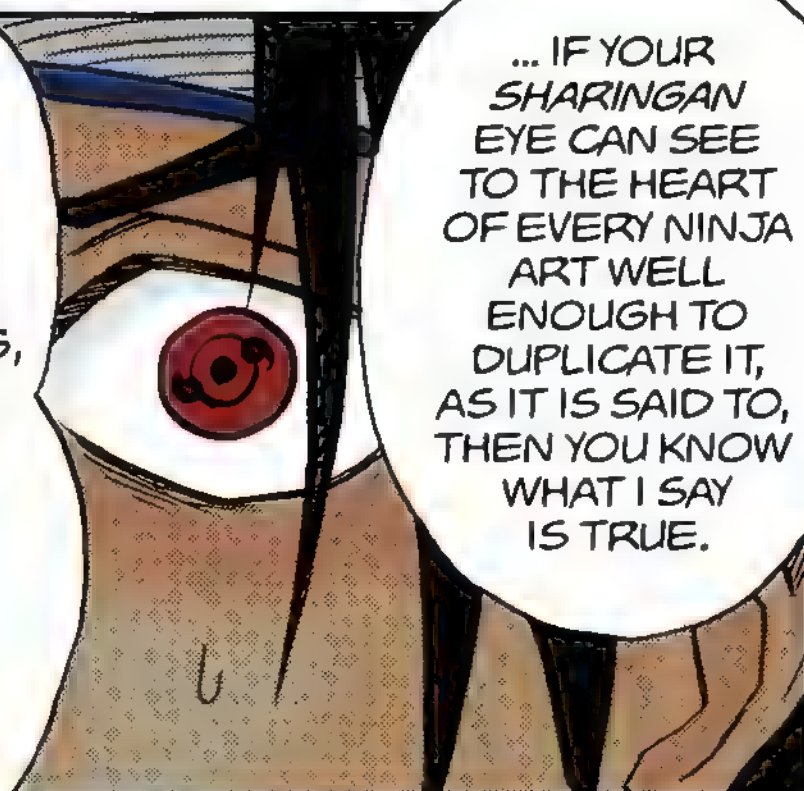
THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
NO  
NINJUTSU.  
NO  
TRICKERY.  
MY MOVES  
ARE  
STRICTLY  
PHYSICAL.



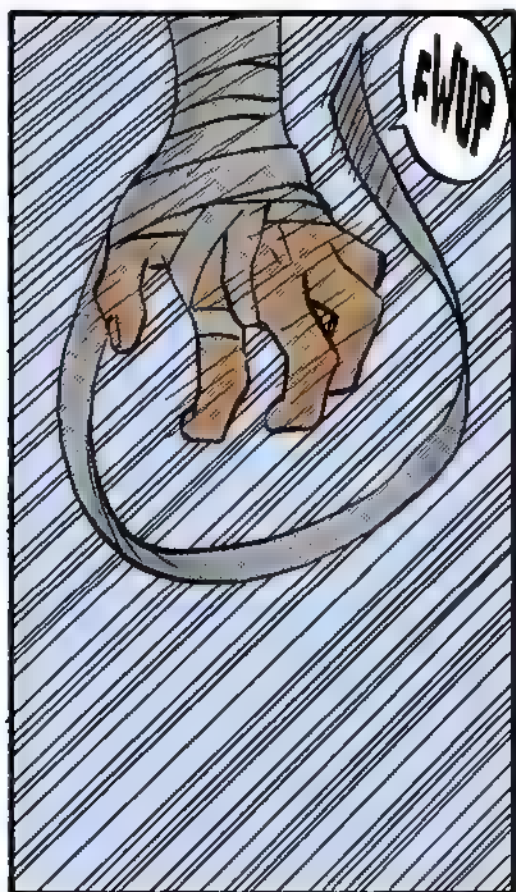
BUT...  
HOW?!

I'M SURE  
YOUR *SHARINGAN*  
IS INVALUABLE  
AGAINST ARTS LIKE  
NINJUTSU AND  
GENJUTSU, WITH  
THEIR FORMALIZED  
RULES, SIGN-CASTING,  
AND CHAKRAS...

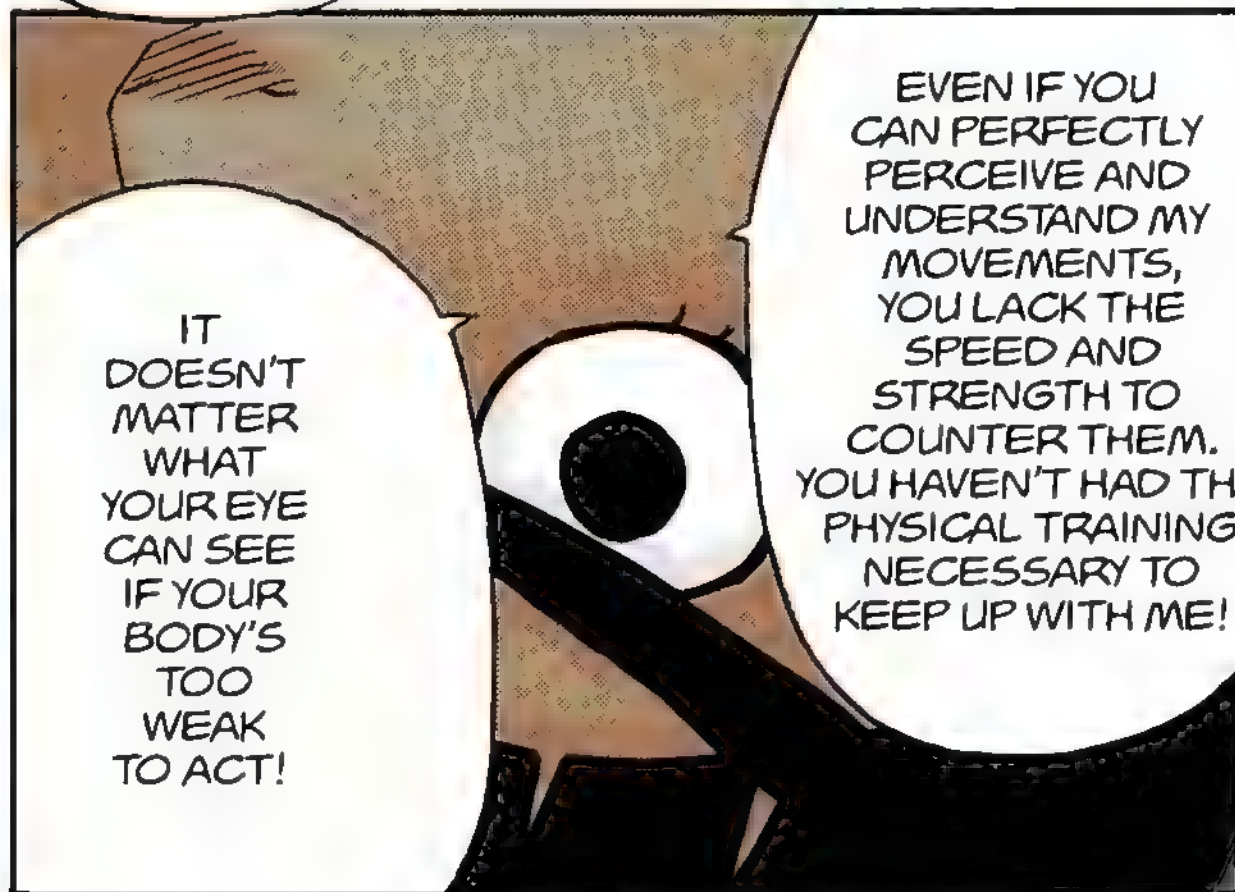
BUT PHYSICAL  
*TAIJUTSU*  
ARTS IN THEIR  
PURE FORM  
ARE A VERY  
DIFFERENT  
STORY.



... IF YOUR  
*SHARINGAN*  
EYE CAN SEE  
TO THE HEART  
OF EVERY NINJA  
ART WELL  
ENOUGH TO  
DUPLICATE IT,  
AS IT IS SAID TO,  
THEN YOU KNOW  
WHAT I SAY  
IS TRUE.



FWUP



IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHAT  
YOUR EYE  
CAN SEE  
IF YOUR  
BODY'S  
TOO  
WEAK  
TO ACT!

EVEN IF YOU  
CAN PERFECTLY  
PERCEIVE AND  
UNDERSTAND MY  
MOVEMENTS,  
YOU LACK THE  
SPEED AND  
STRENGTH TO  
COUNTER THEM.  
YOU HAVEN'T HAD THE  
PHYSICAL TRAINING  
NECESSARY TO  
KEEP UP WITH ME!





LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOUR SUBTLE ARTS AND MY PHYSICAL PROWESS MAKE US A COMPLETE MISMATCH!



YOUR SHARINGAN IS NATURAL-BORN GENIUS. I HEAR IT RUNS IN YOUR FAMILY.

WHAT I HAVE, I GOT THROUGH BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS!

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF STRENGTH. THE KIND YOU'RE BORN WITH... AND THE KIND YOU ONLY GET FROM BACK-BREAKING WORK.



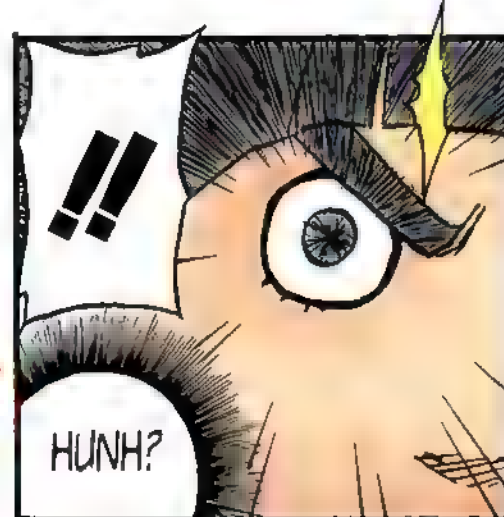
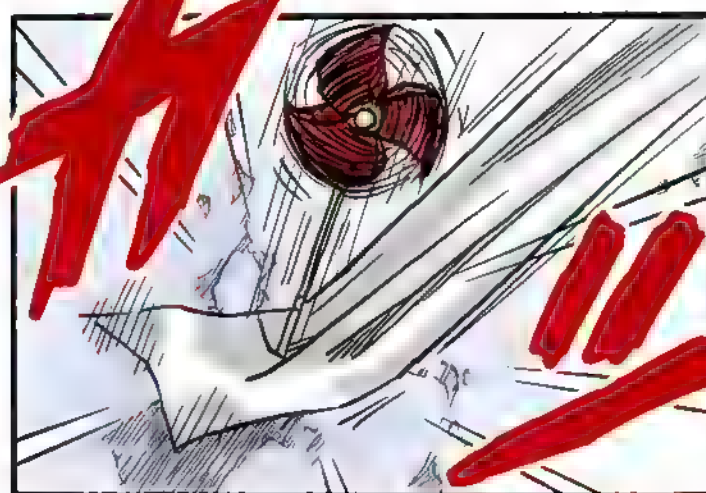
何に  
WHAT'S HE UP TO? !?

THIS PARTICULAR MOVE OF MINE EXCEEDS YOUR GENIUS... COMPLETELY!

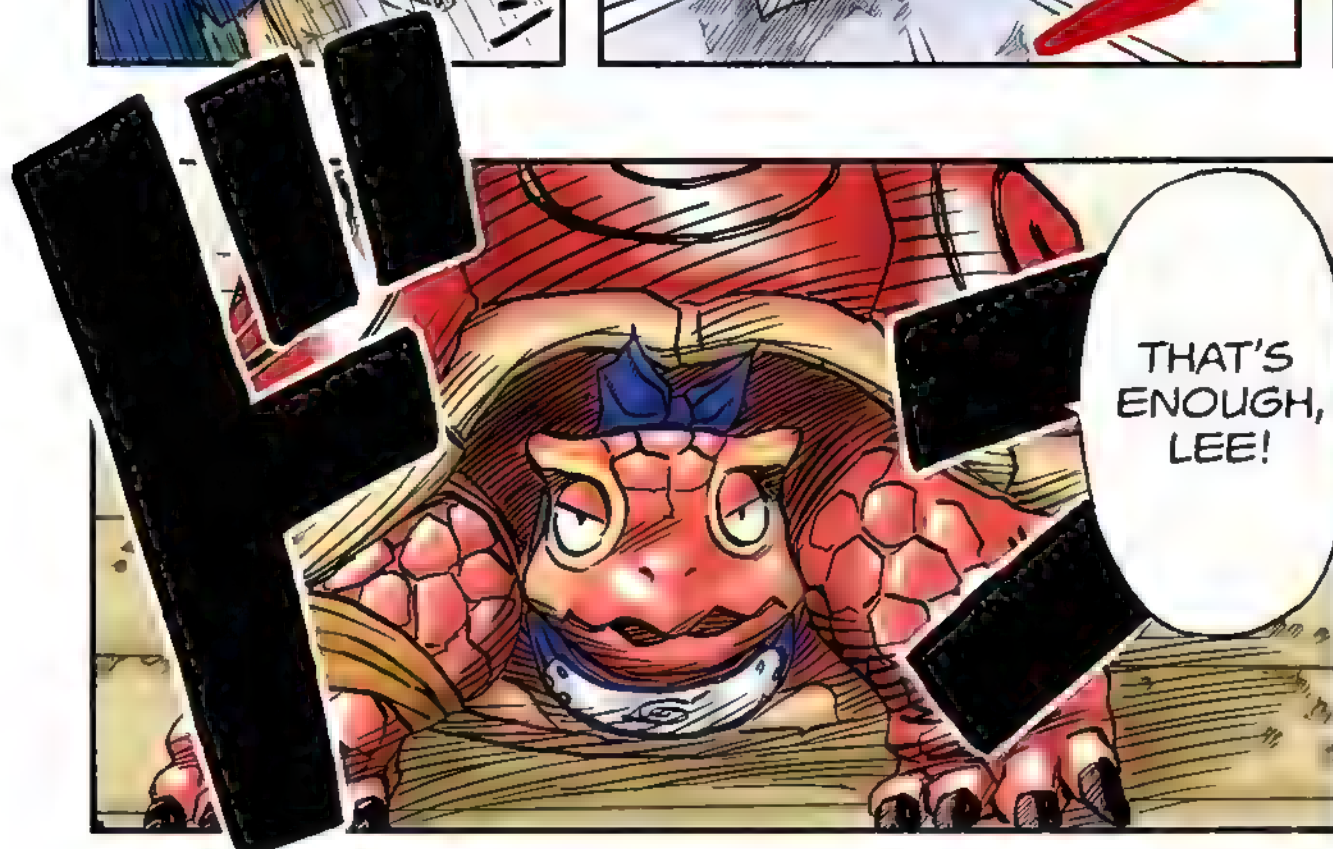


HALT!

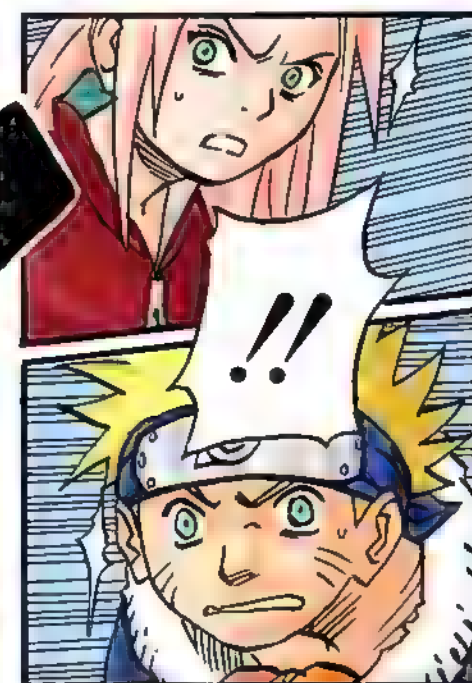
ハッ



HUNH?



THAT'S ENOUGH, LEE!







COLORED

ANGA.COM



ナンバー

38 :

スタート

START

...!!



カッ

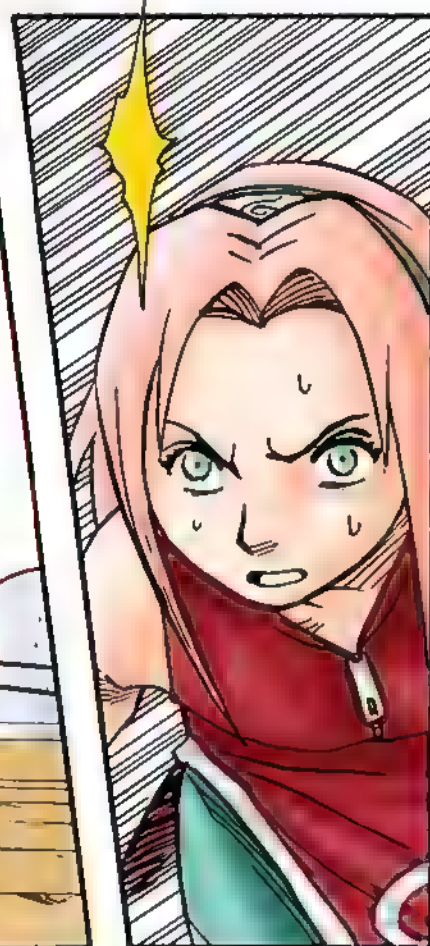
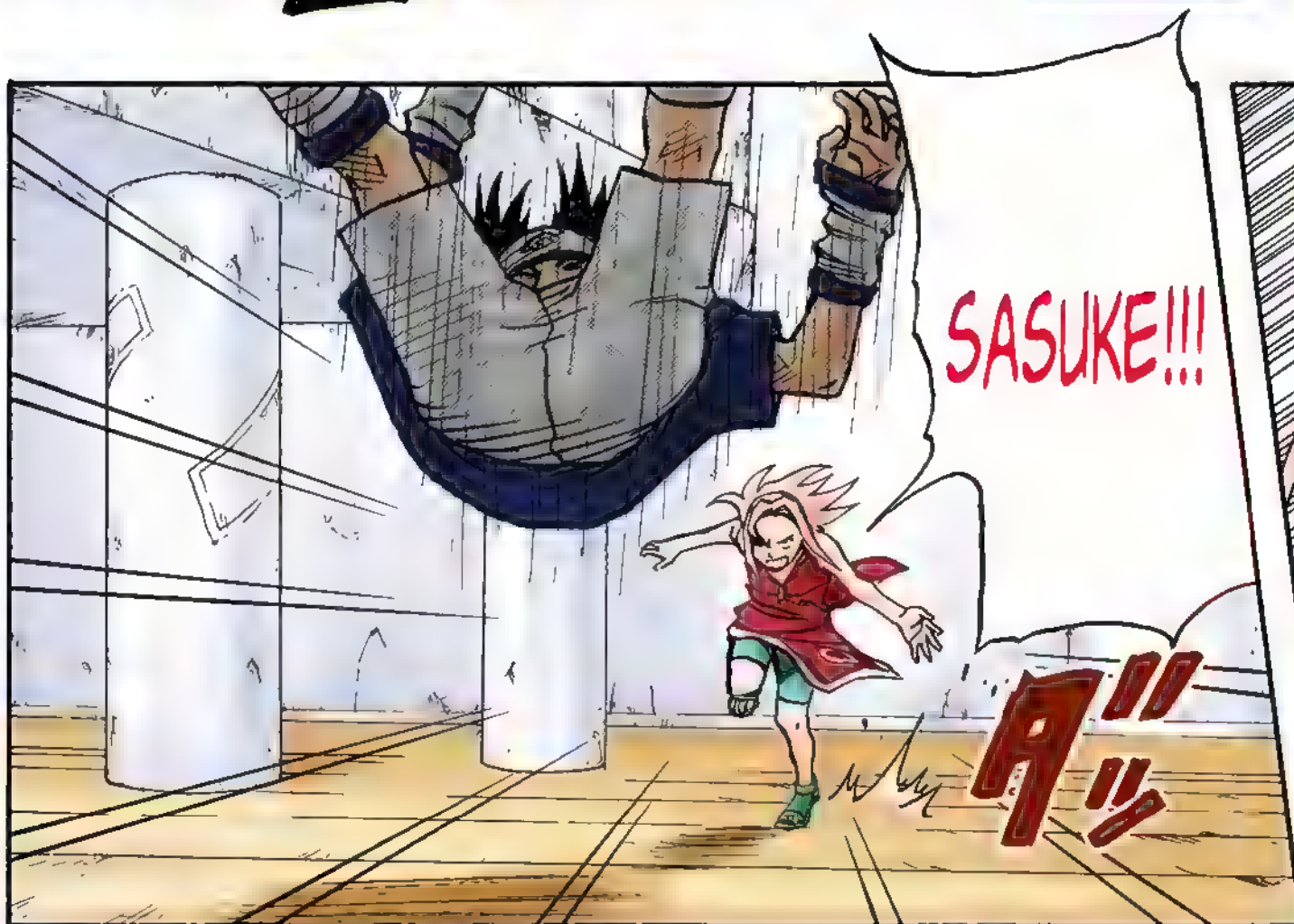
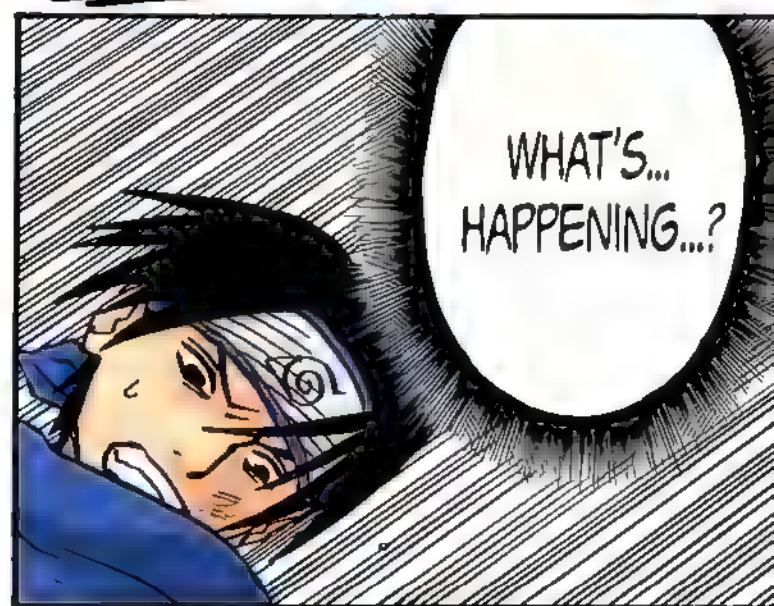
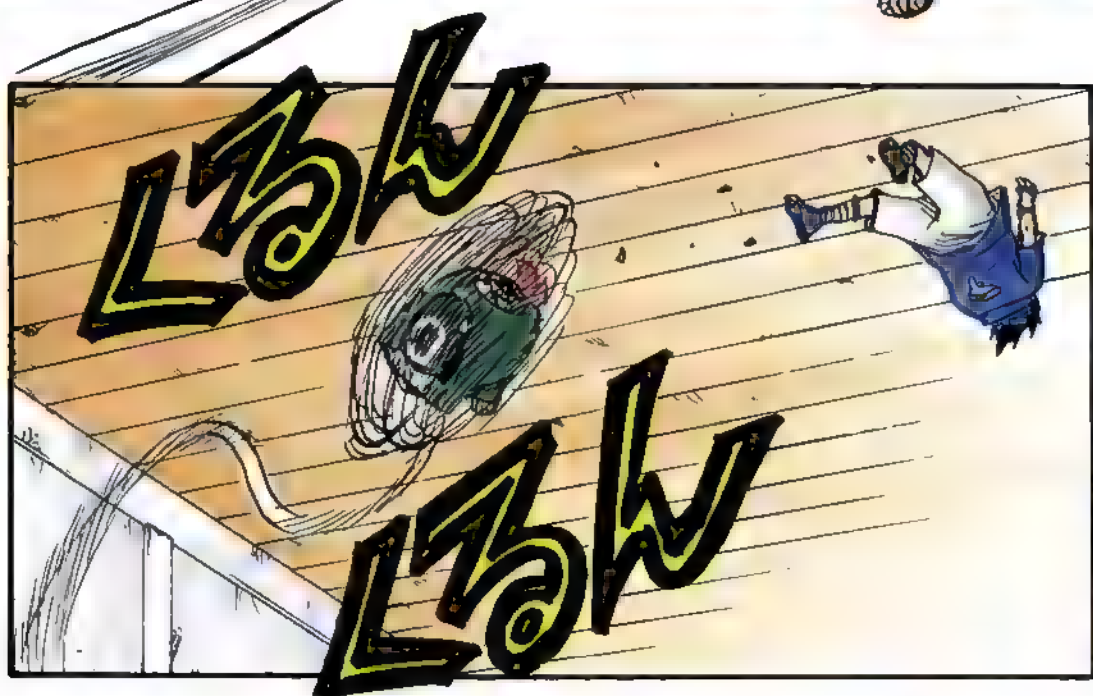
THAT'S  
ENOUGH,  
LEE!



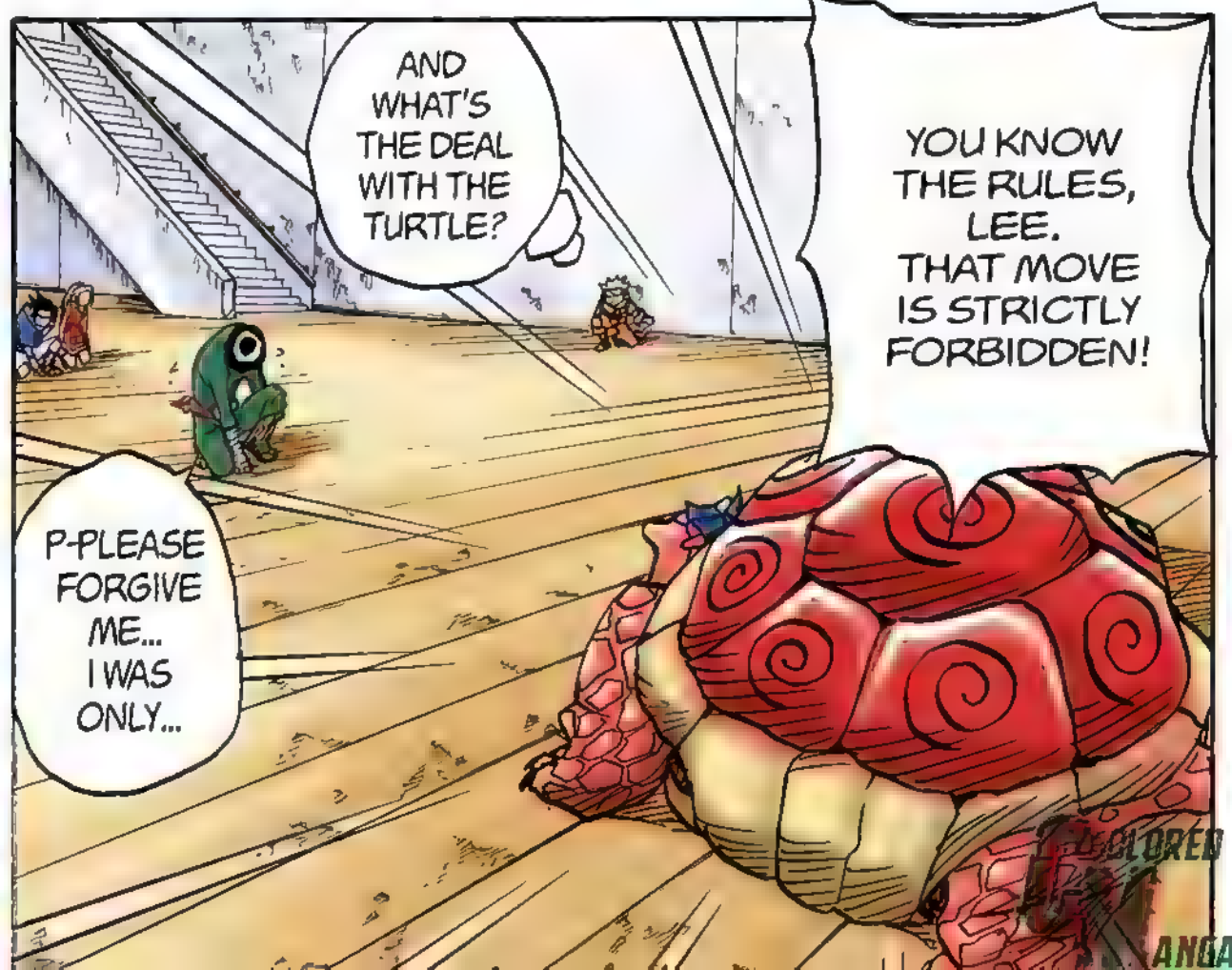
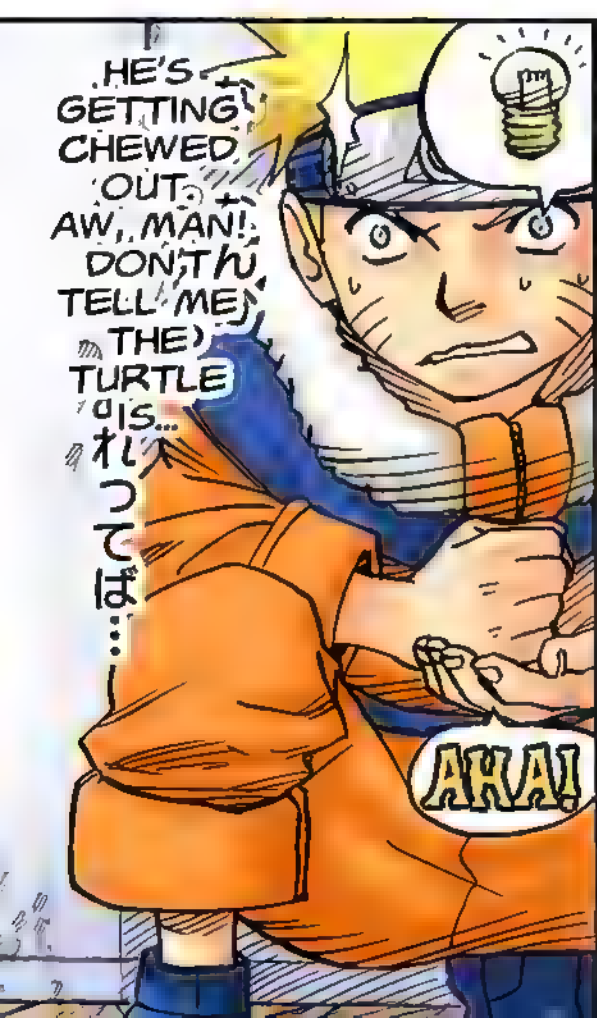
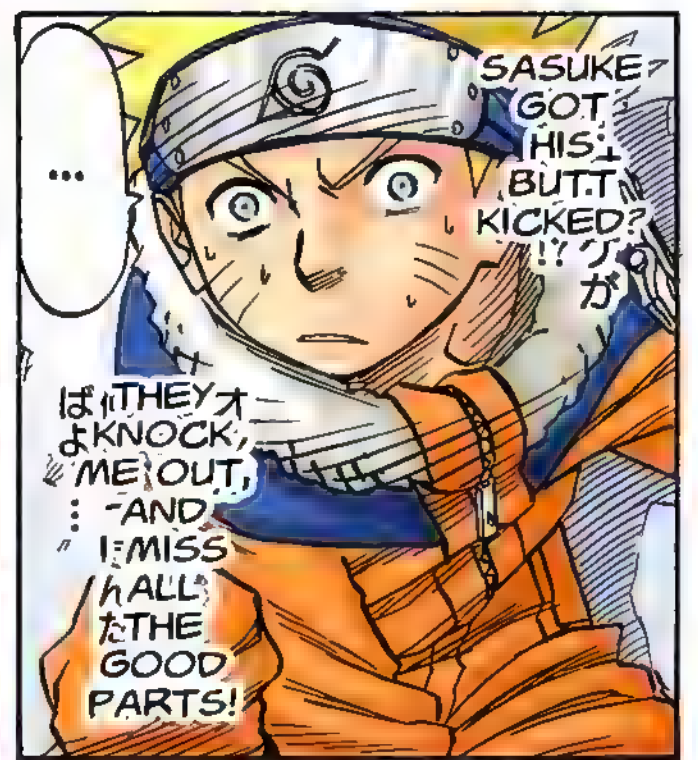
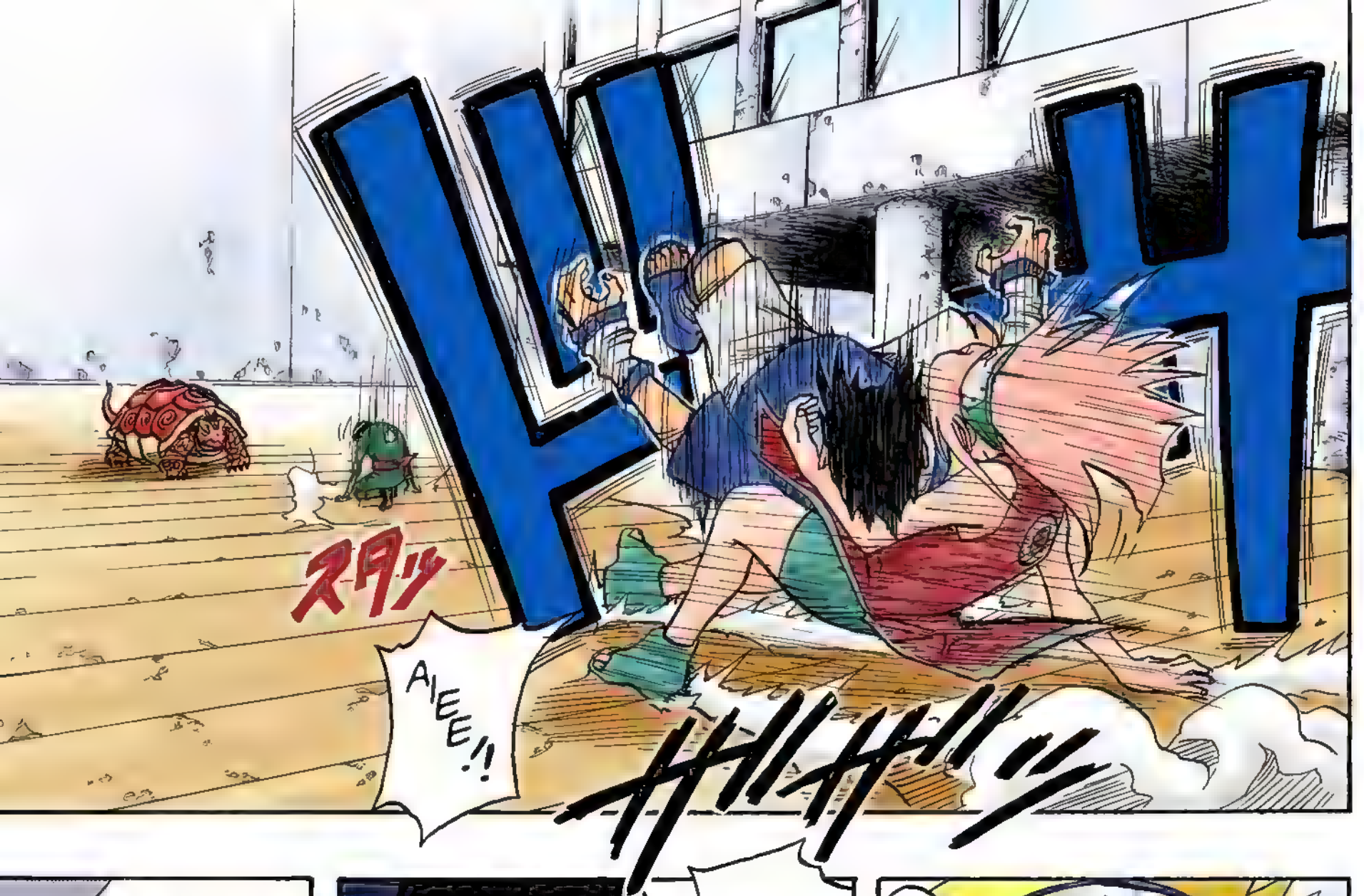
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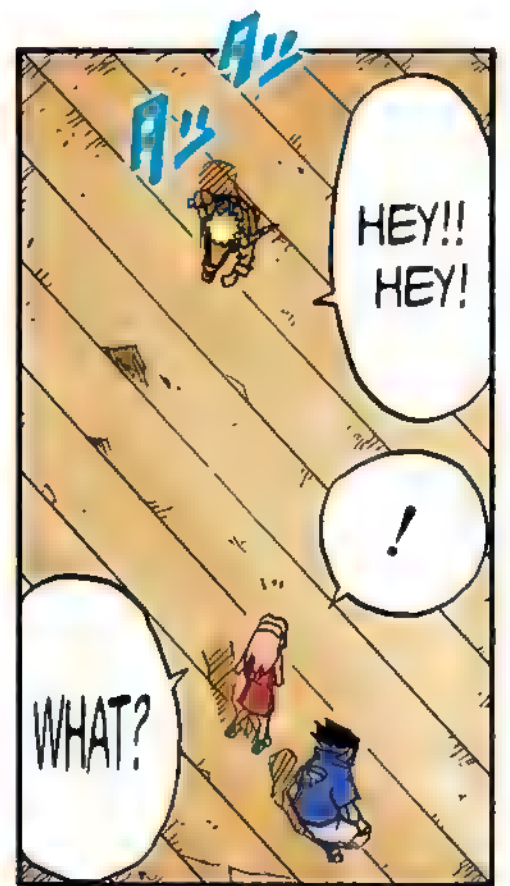
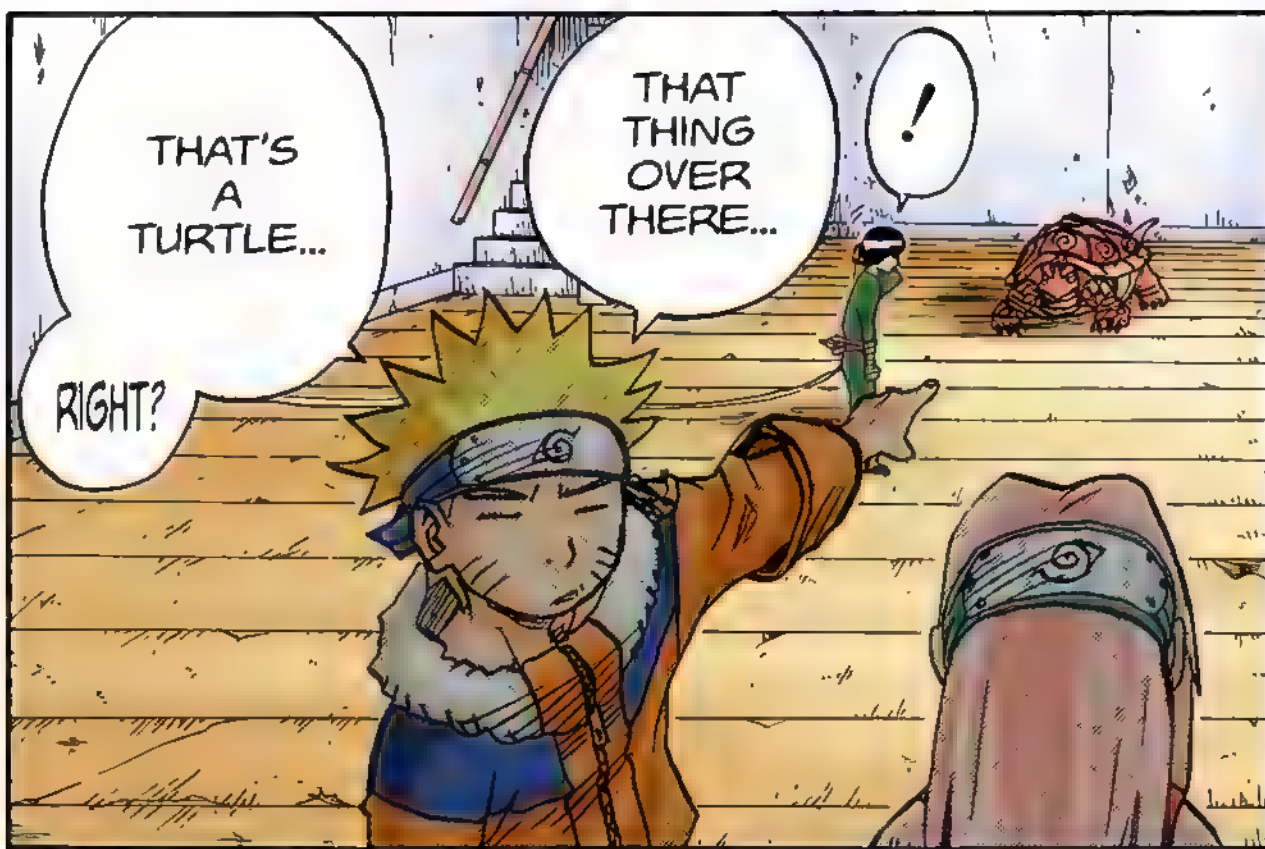
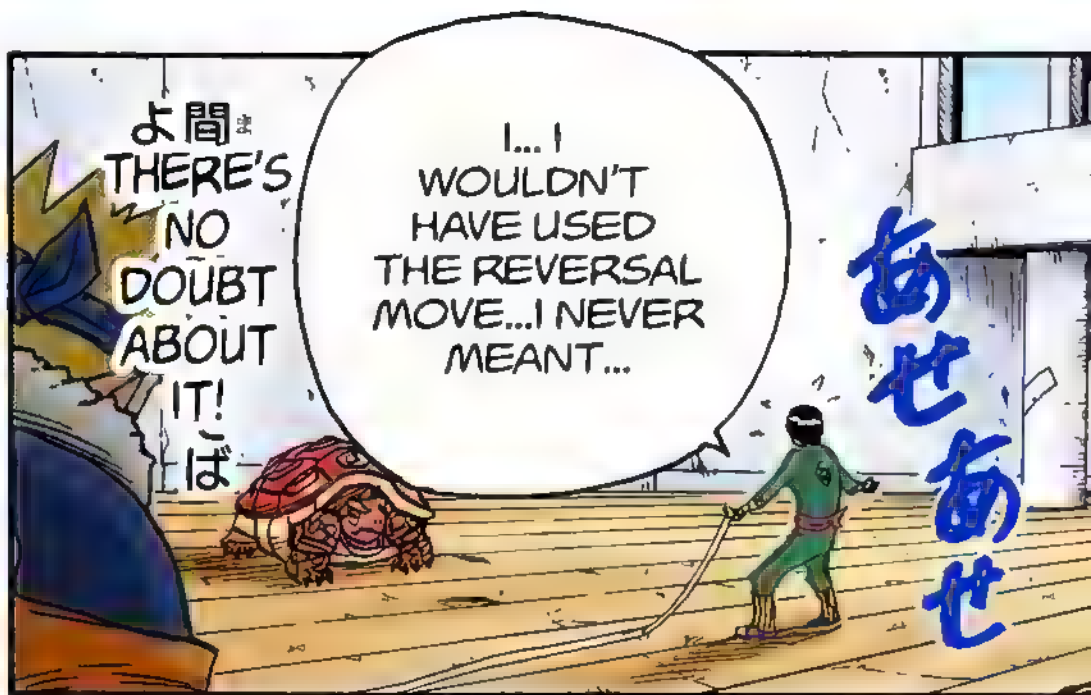
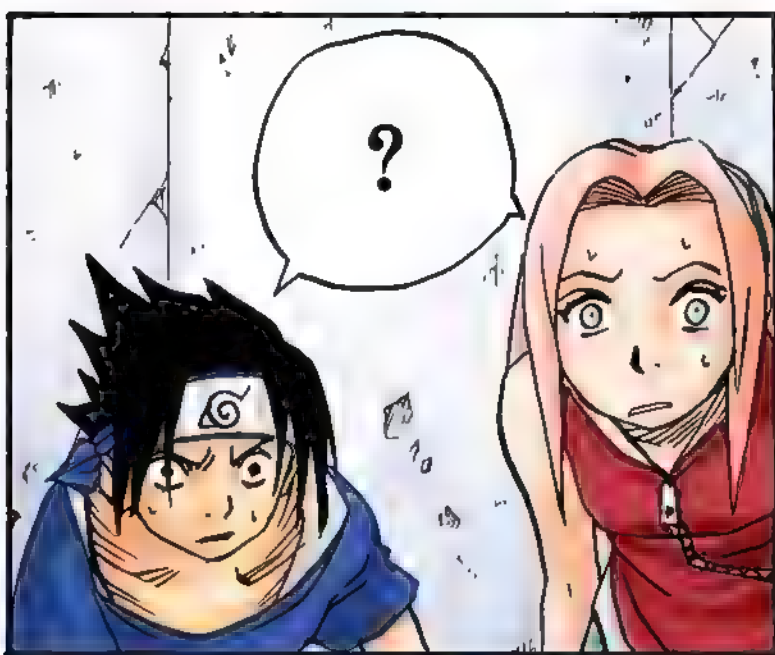
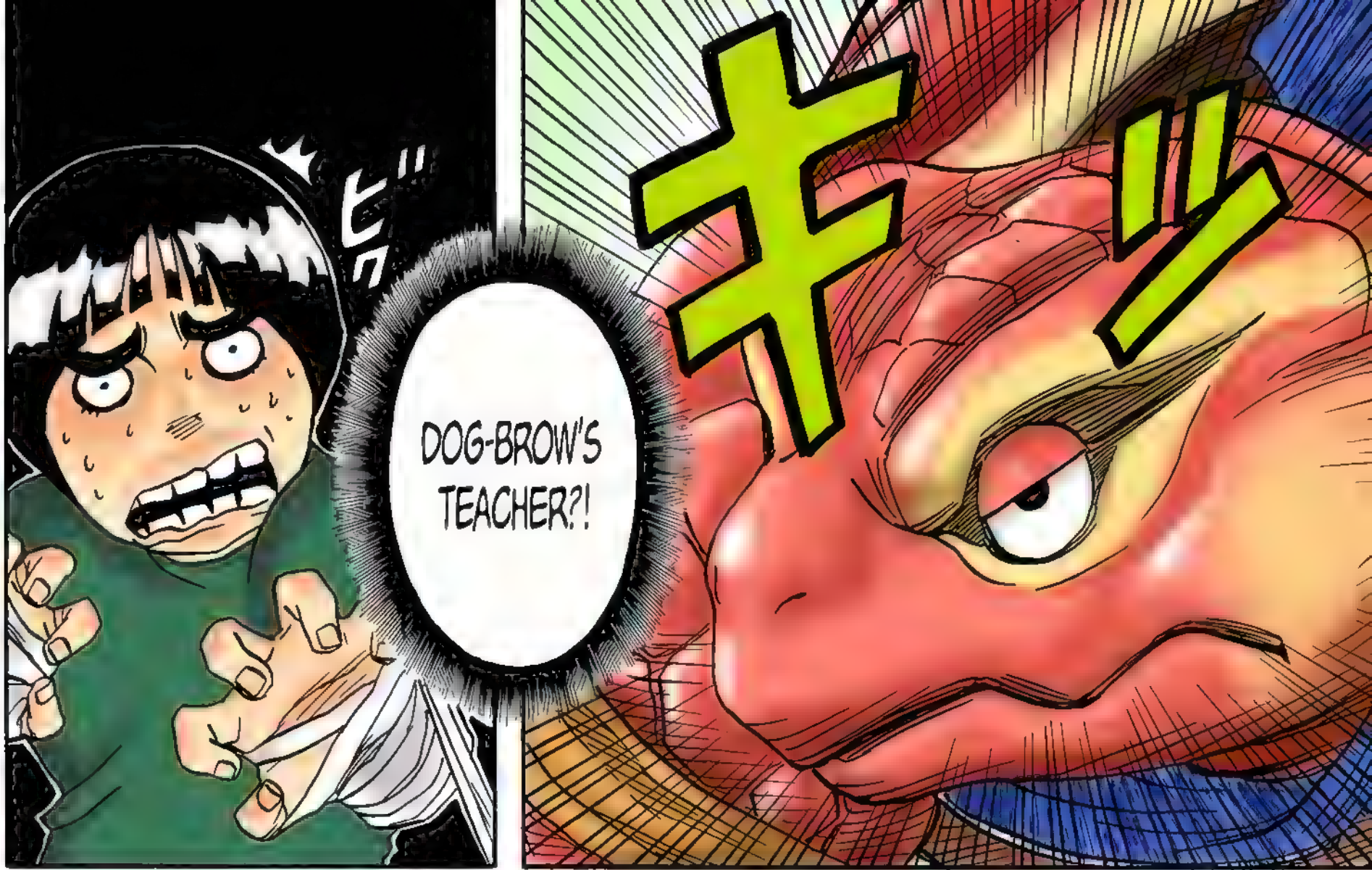




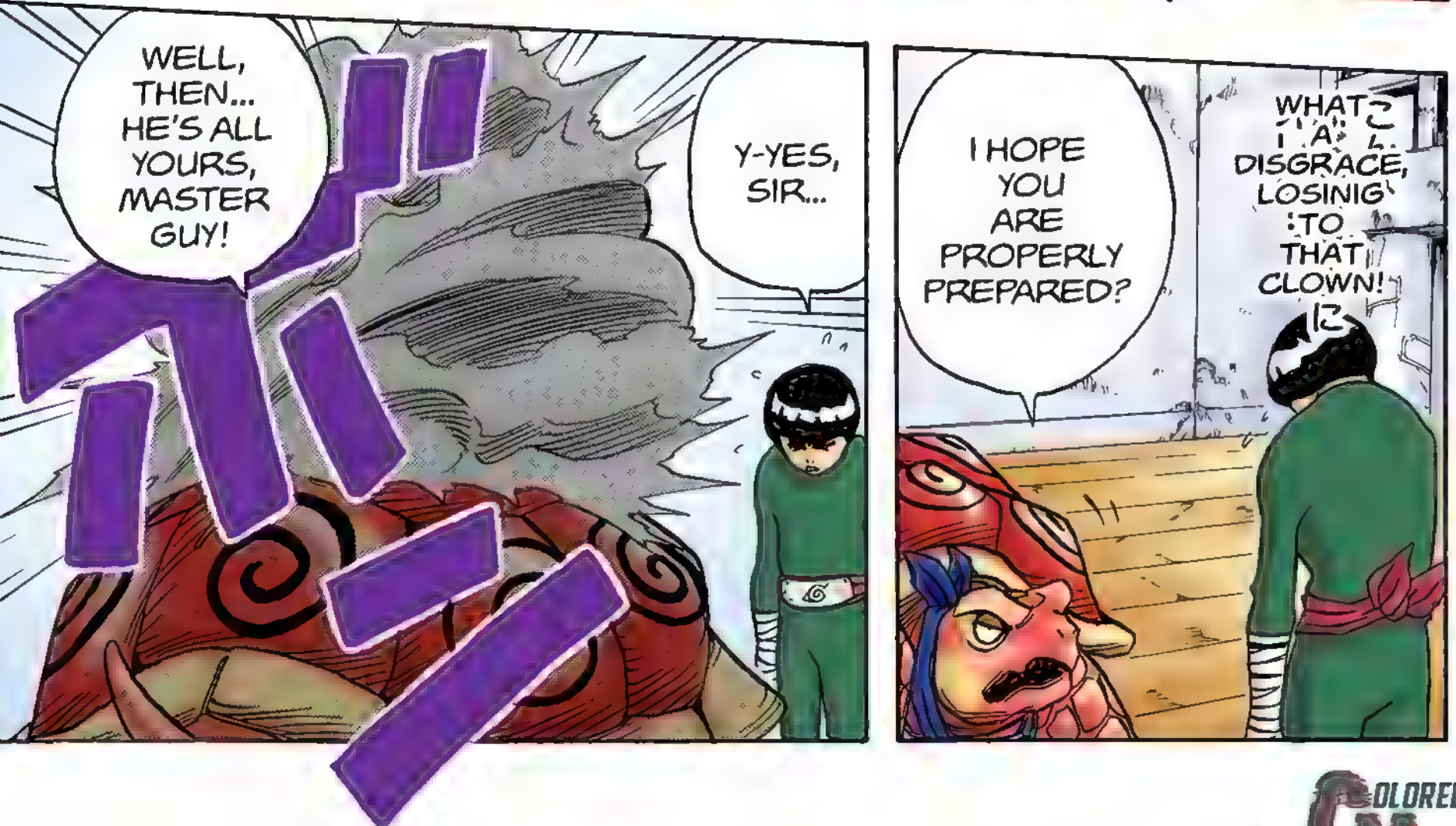
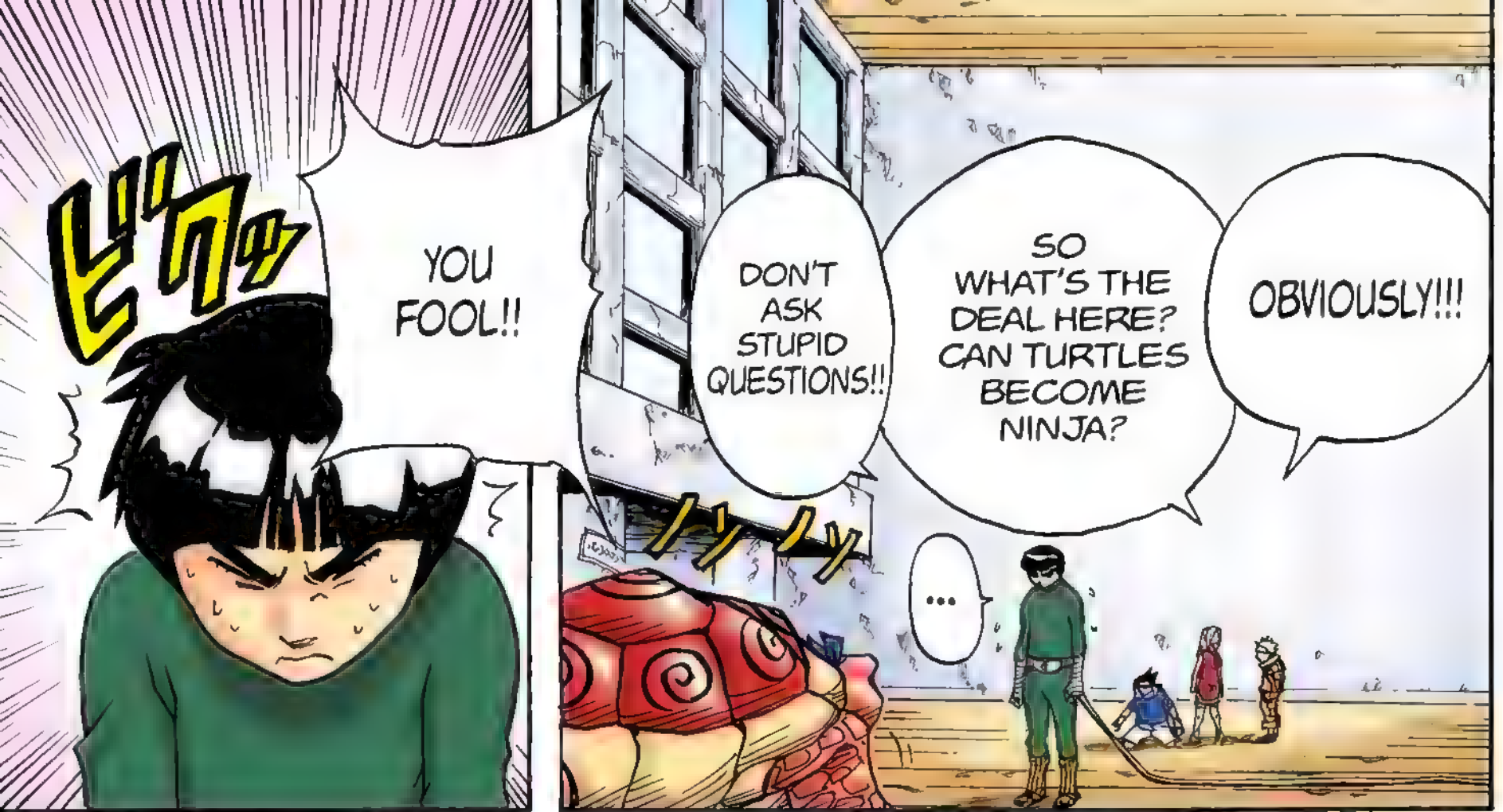










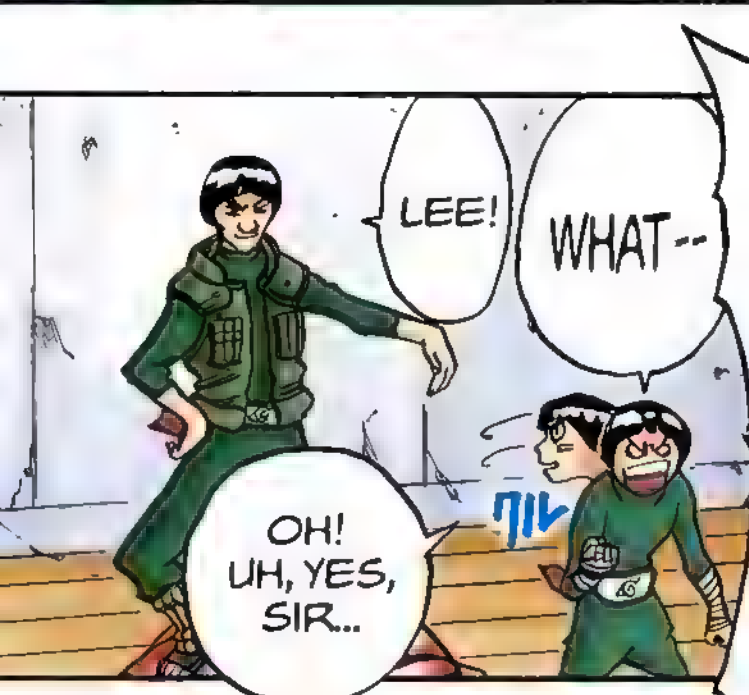
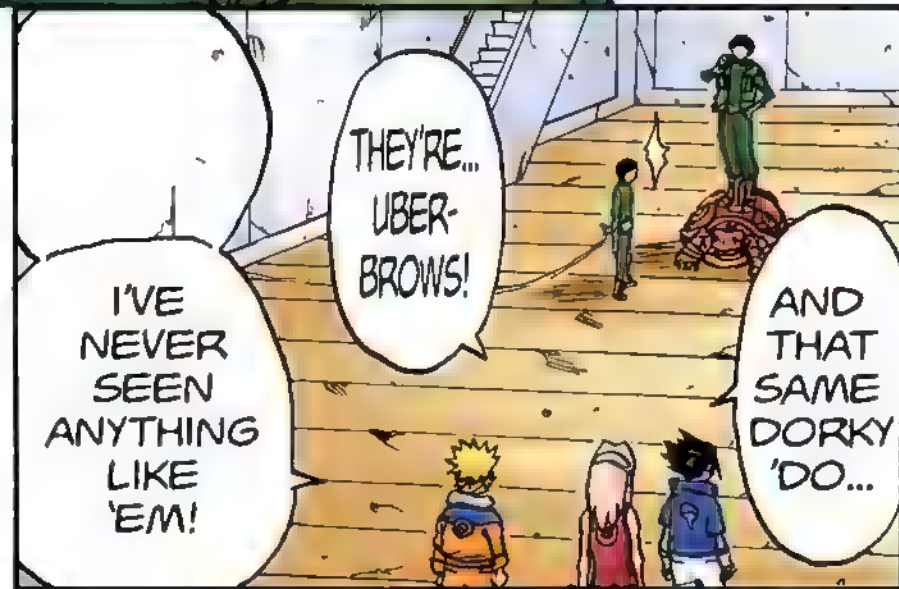
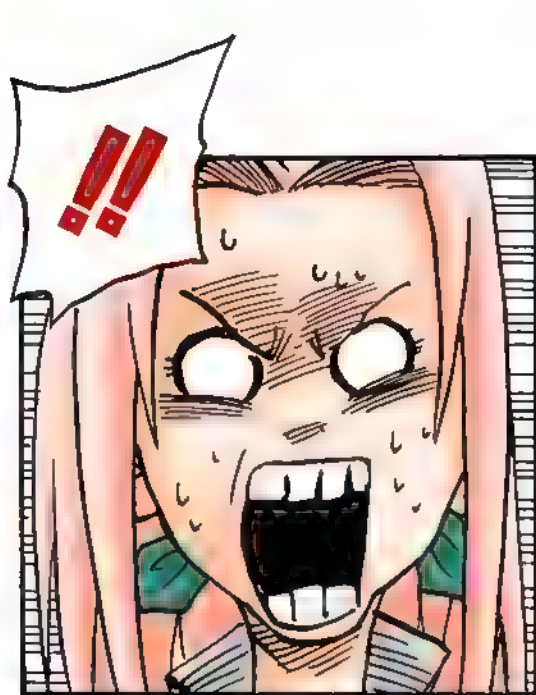




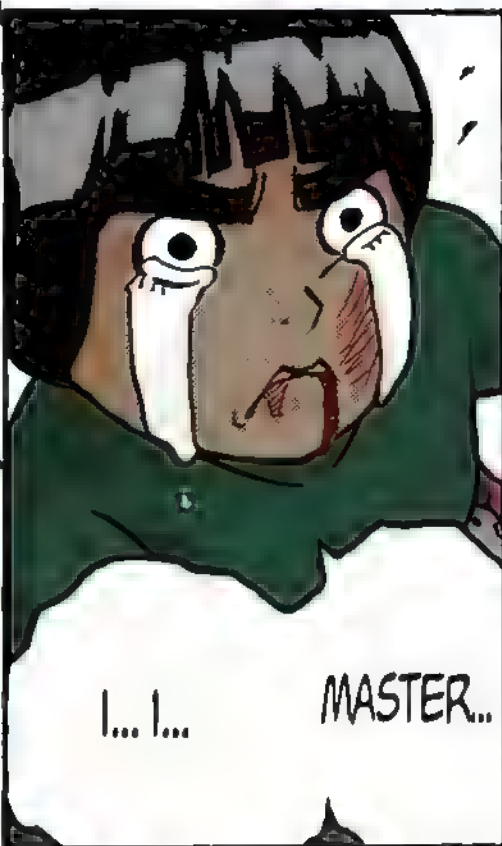
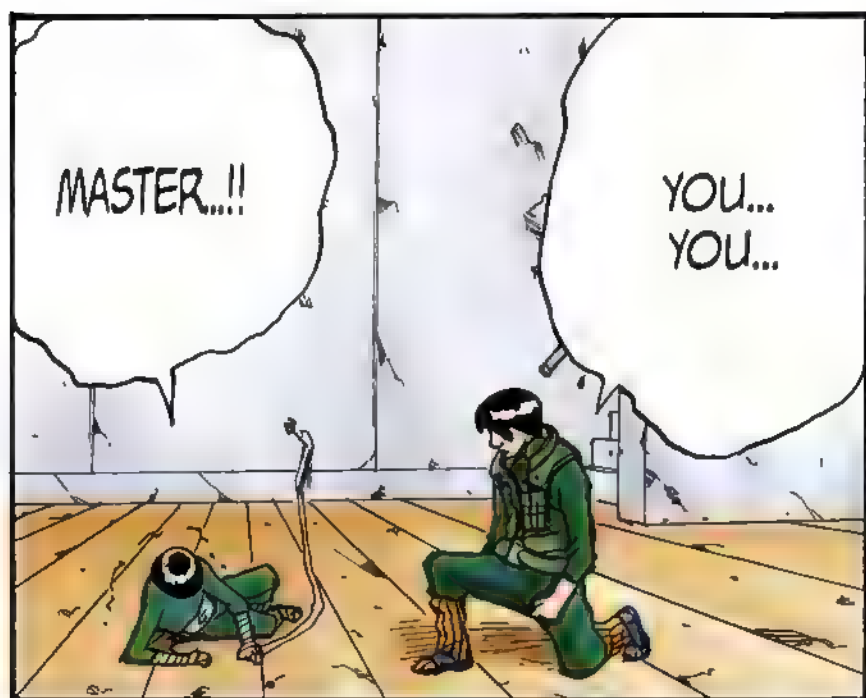


AH,  
THE  
EXUBERANCE  
OF  
YOUTH.  
ALL  
OF  
YOU  
ARE  
FULL  
OF  
IT.

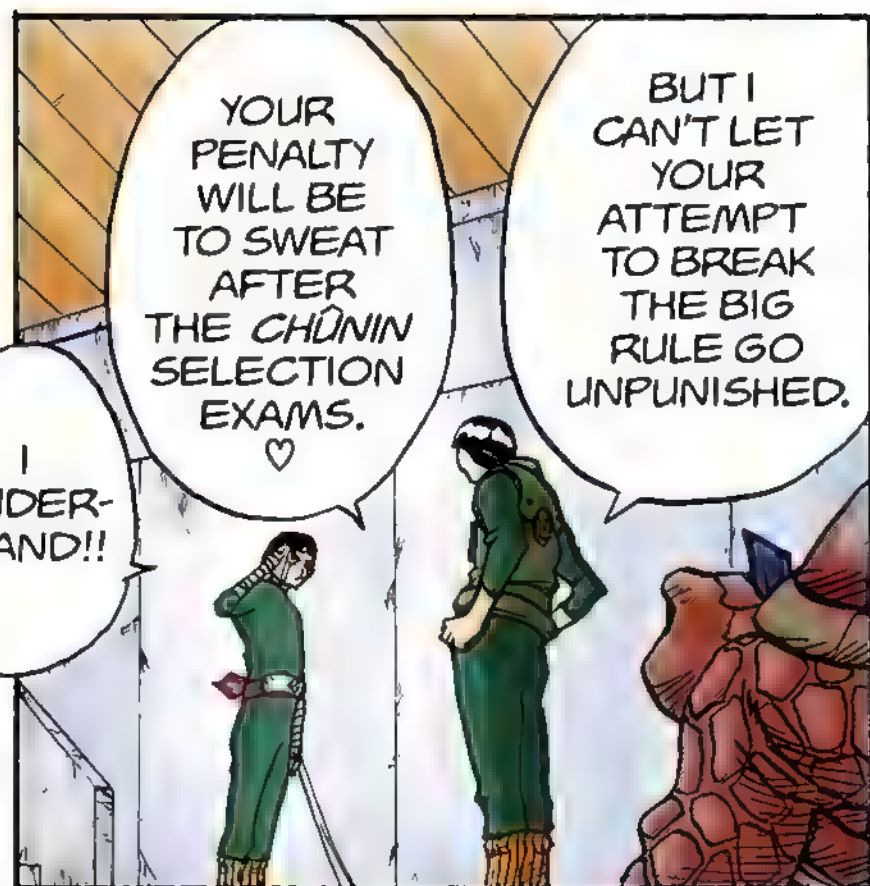
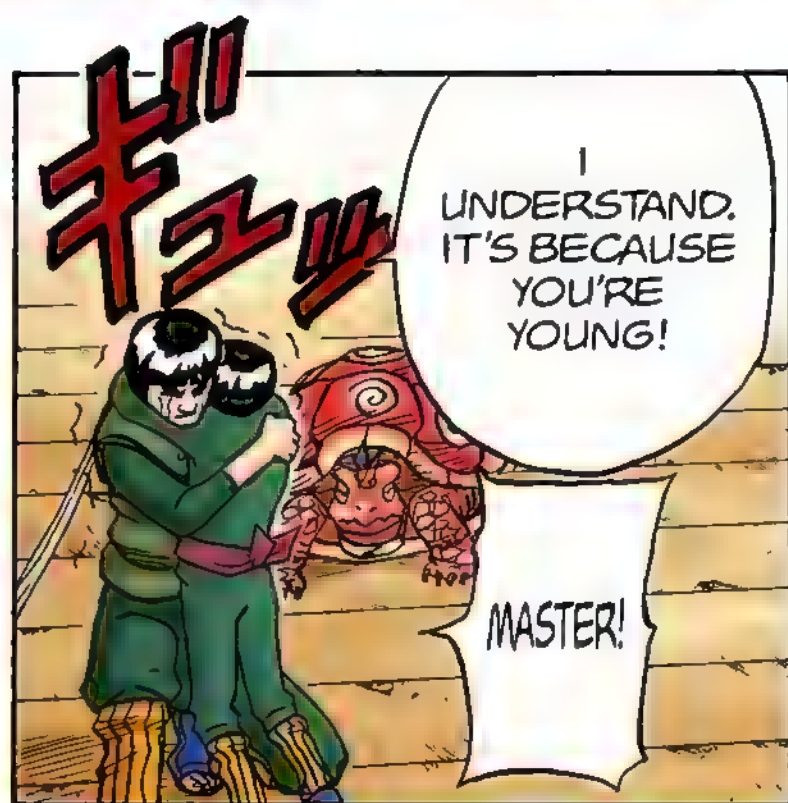
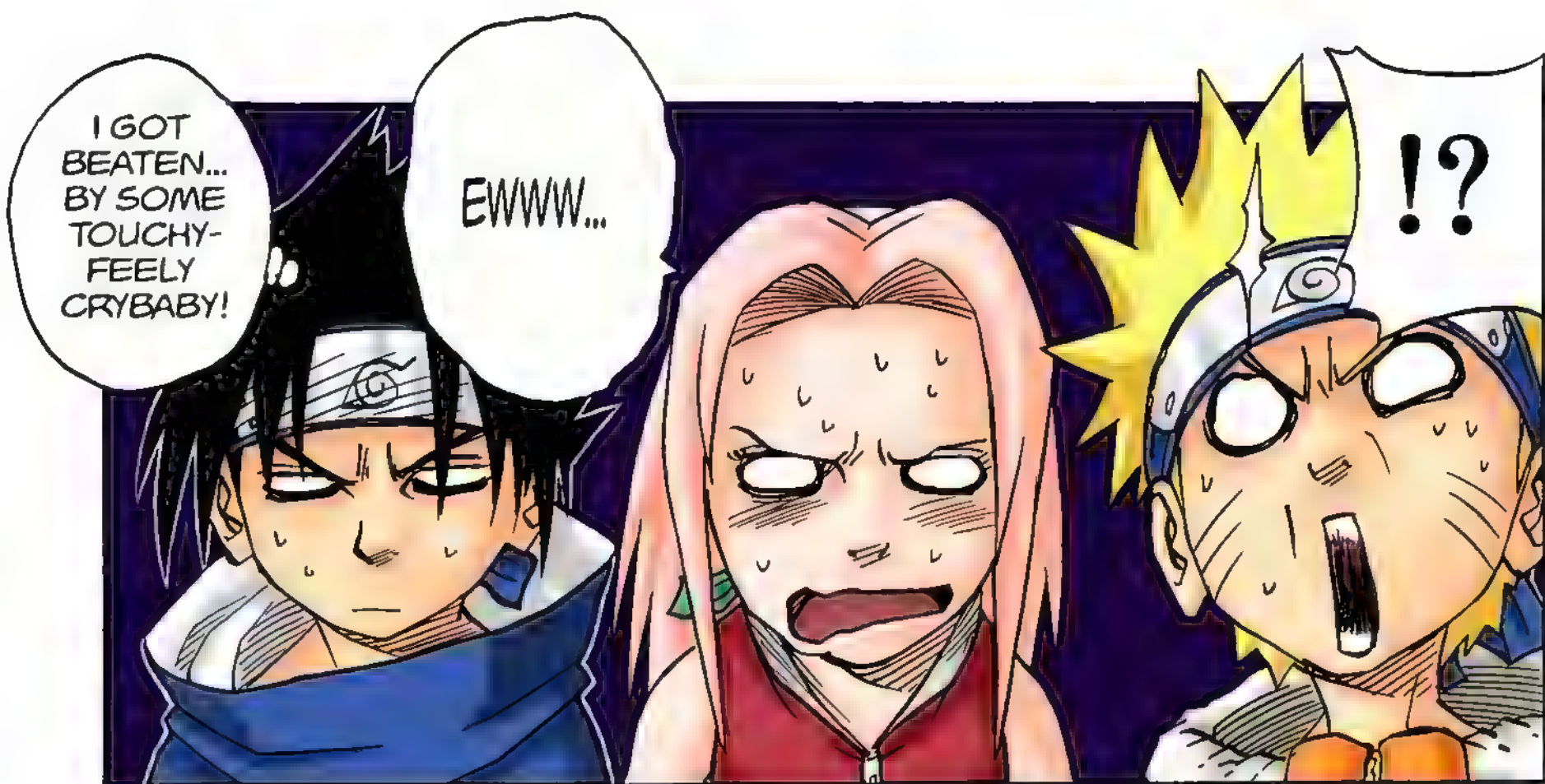




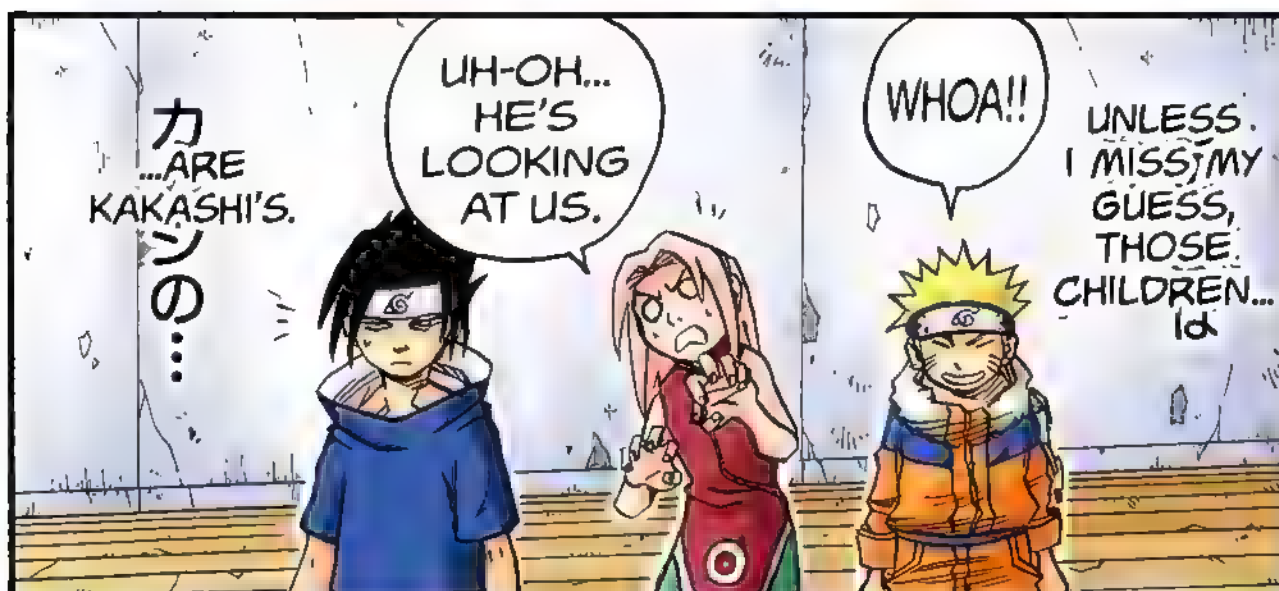




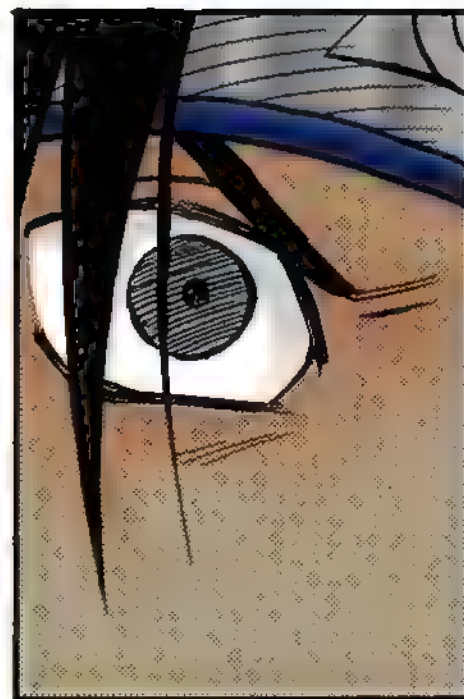
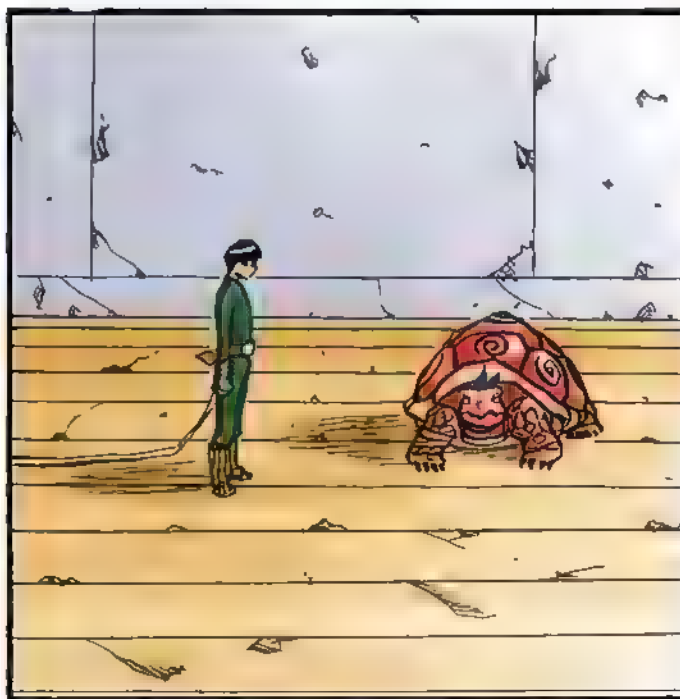
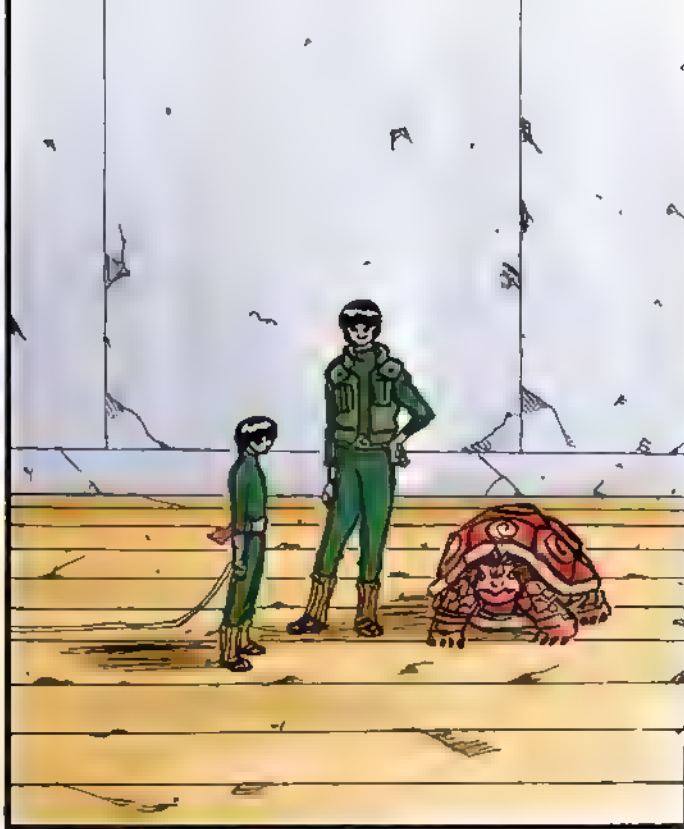
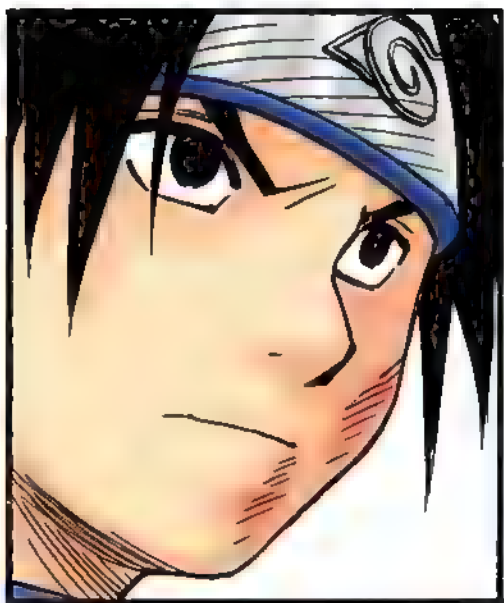








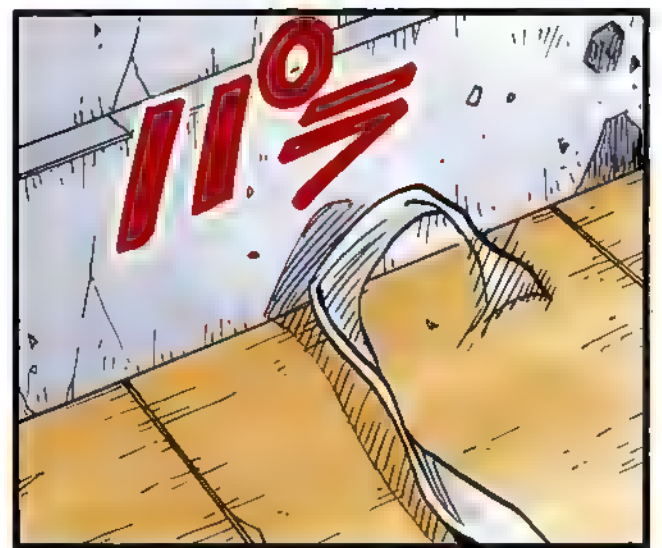
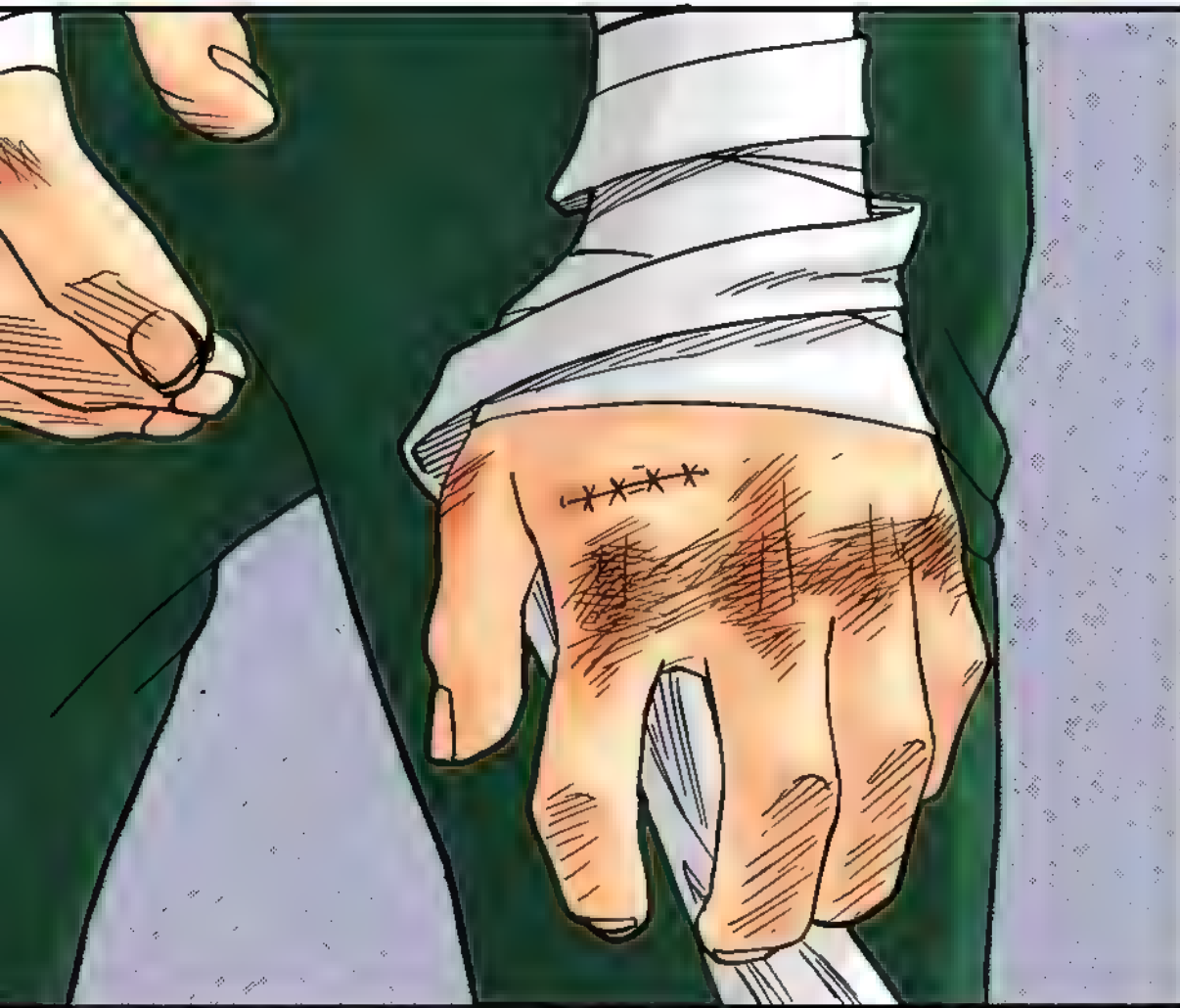
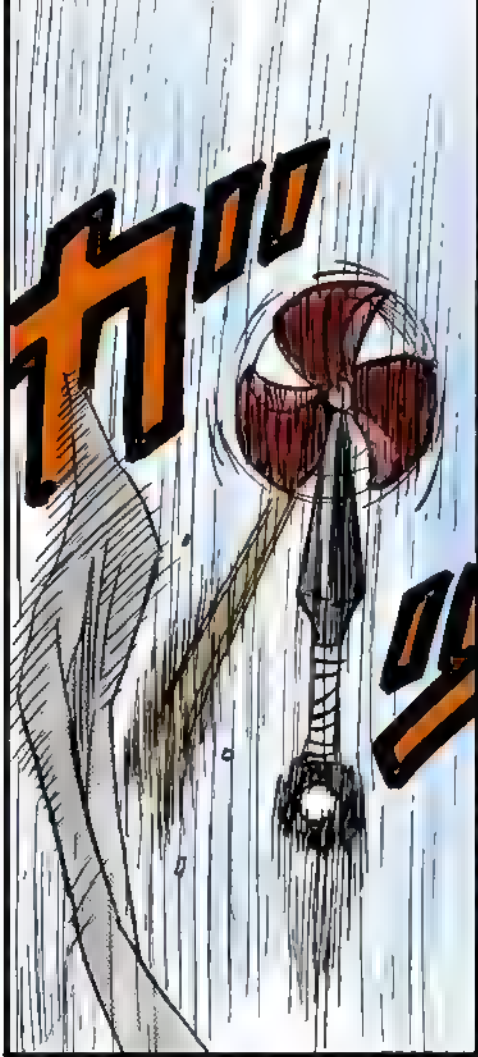




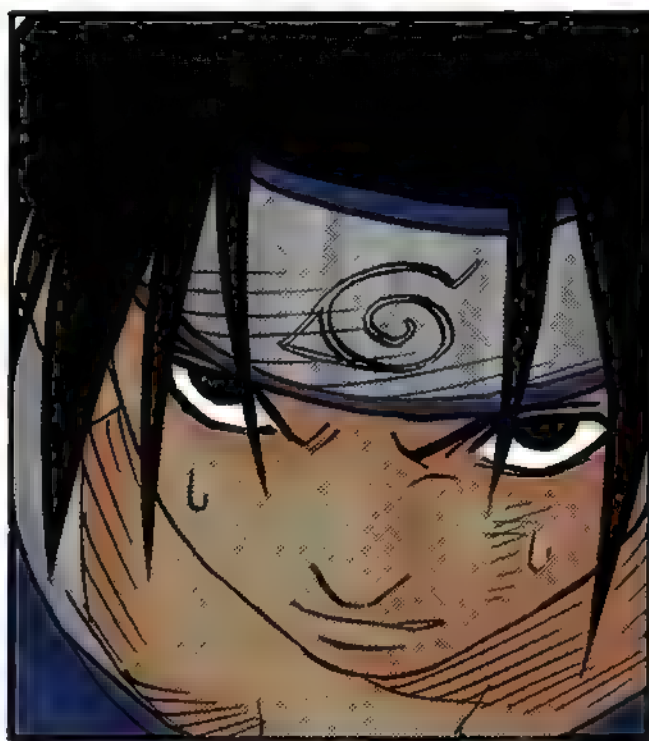
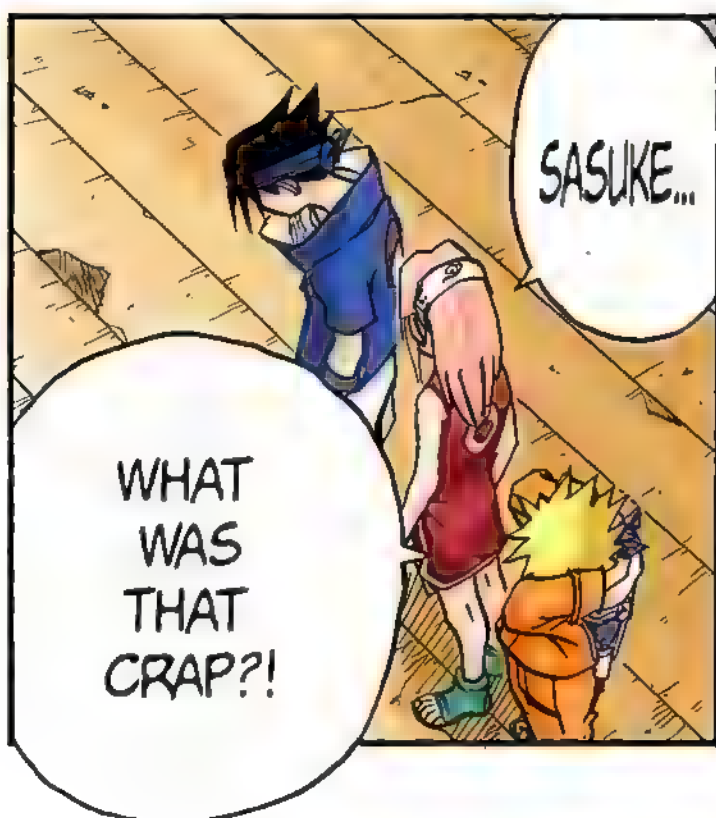




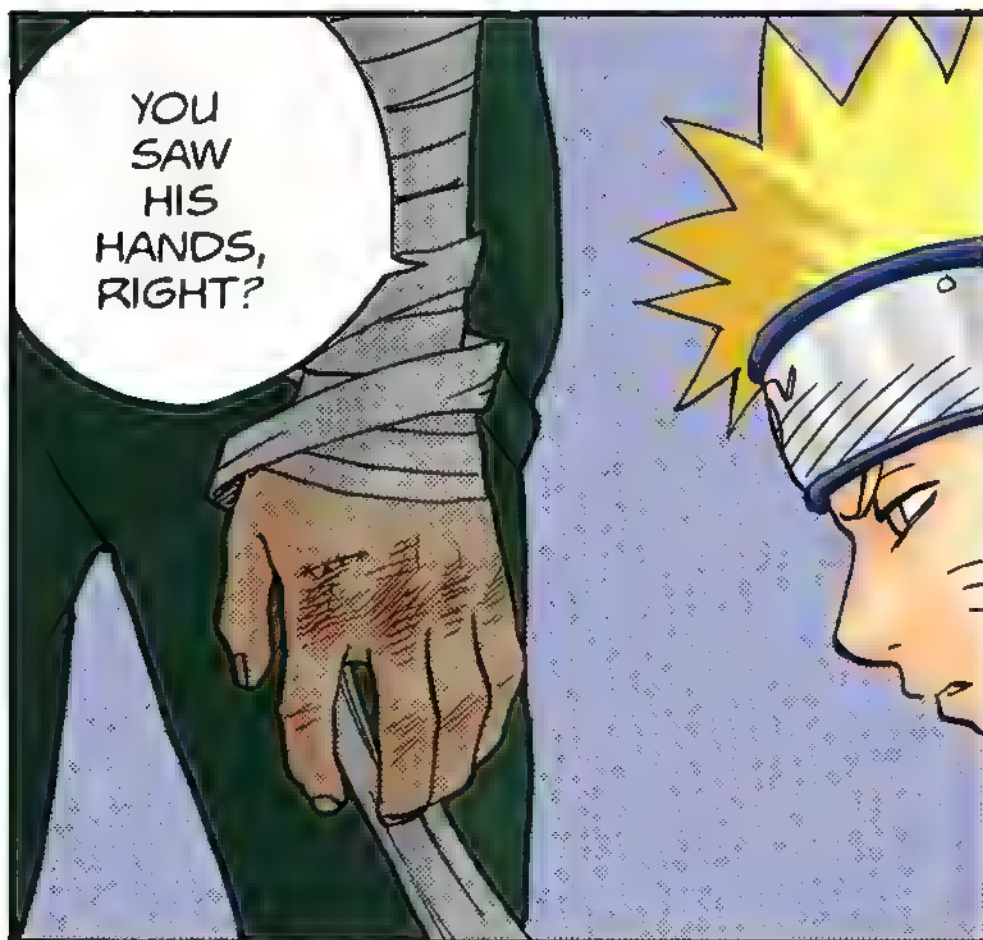
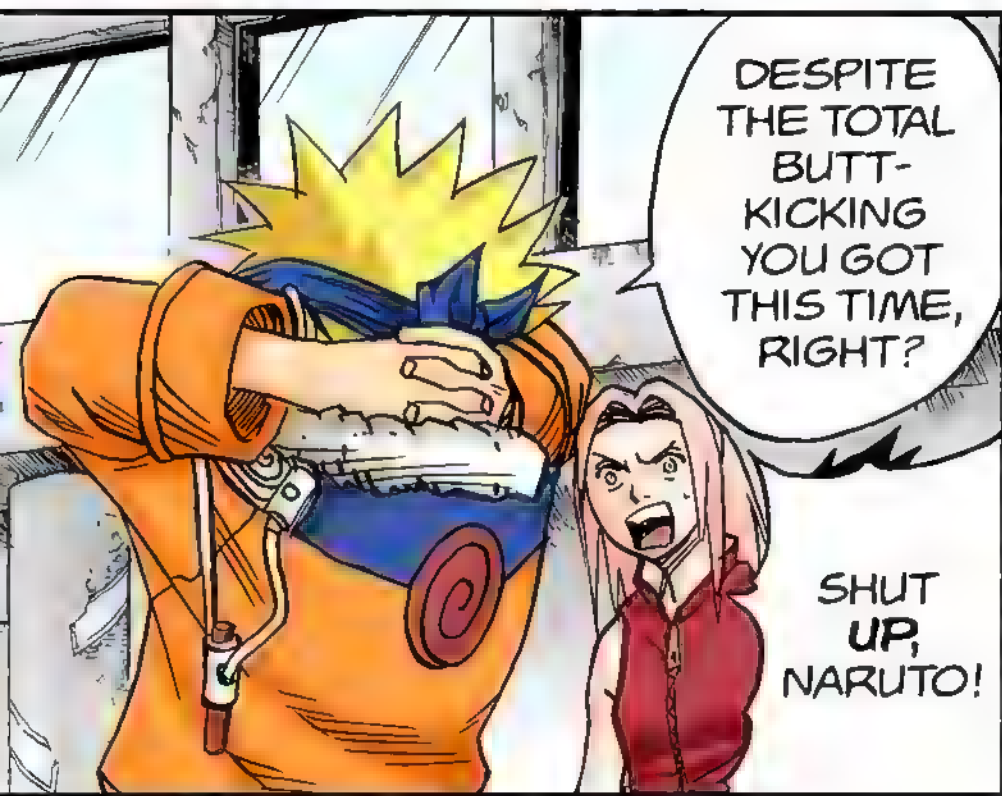
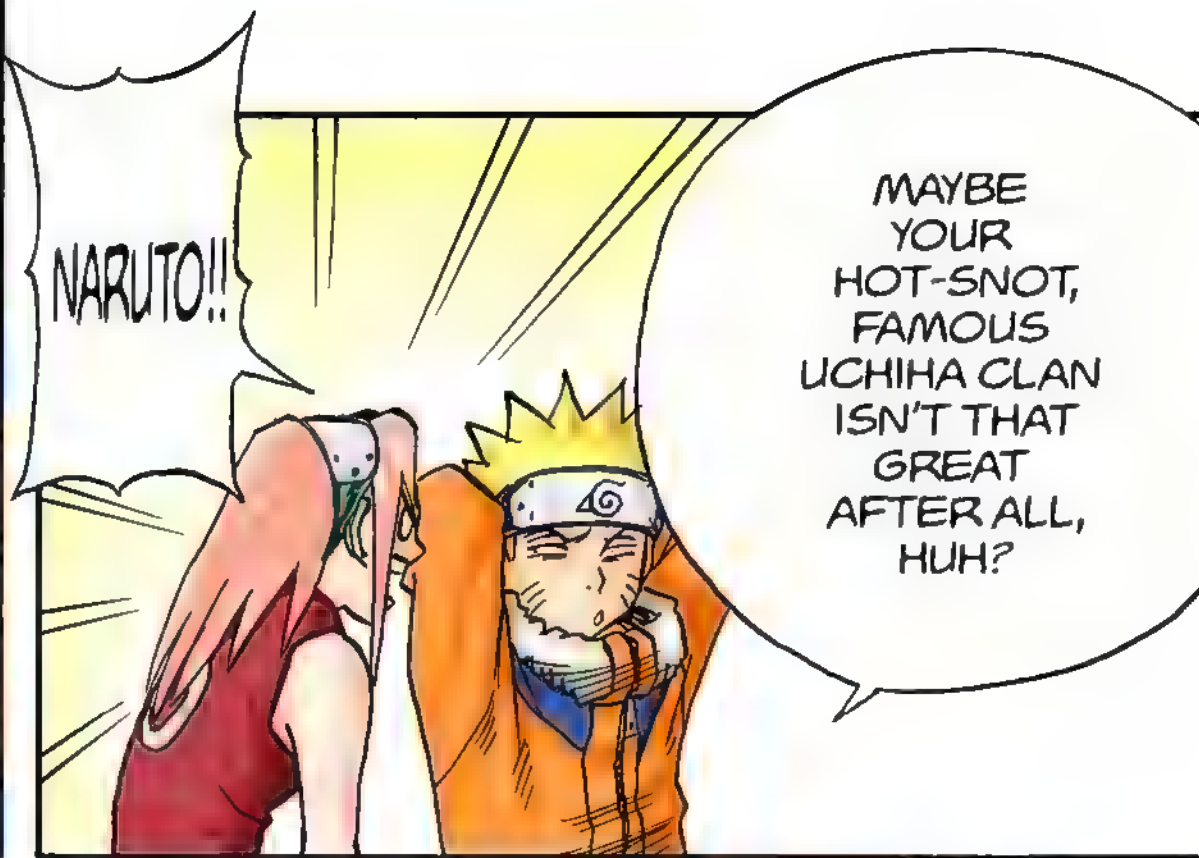




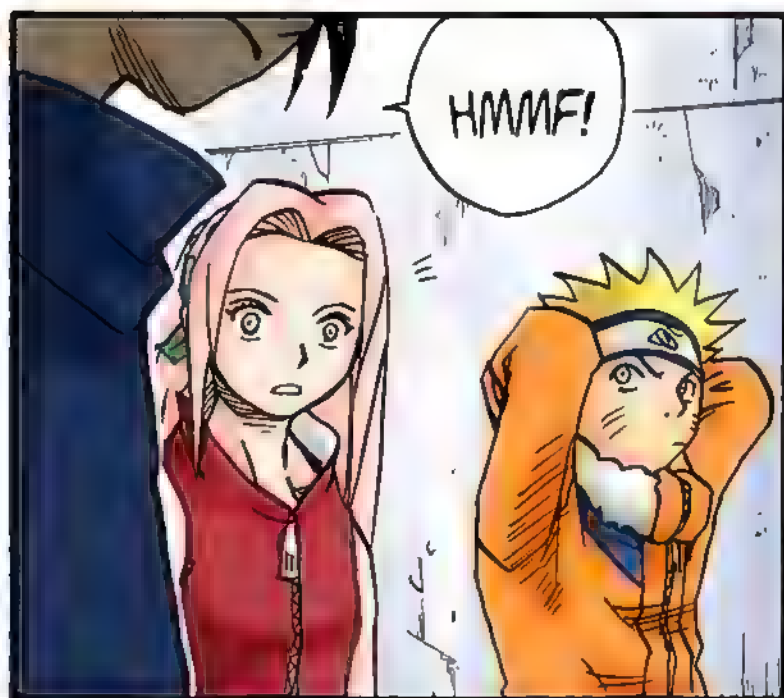
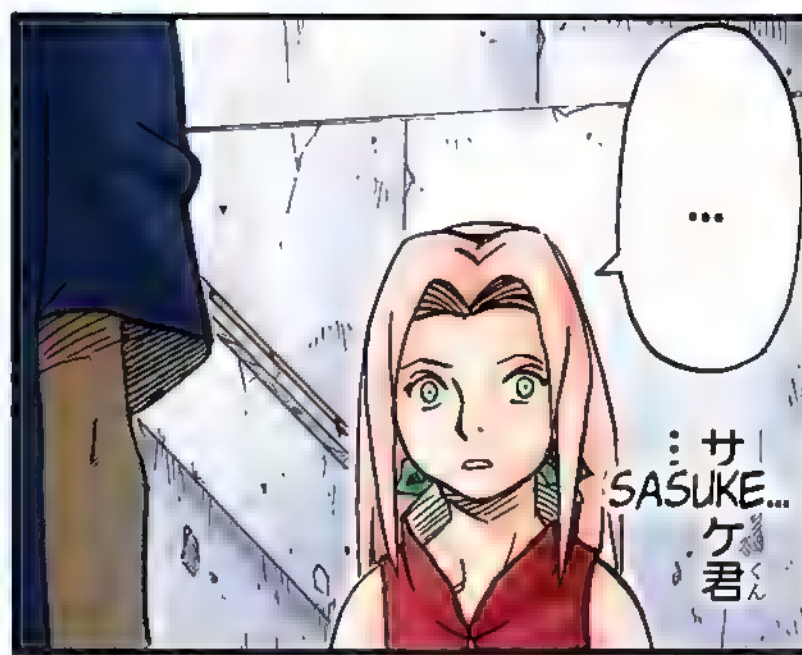
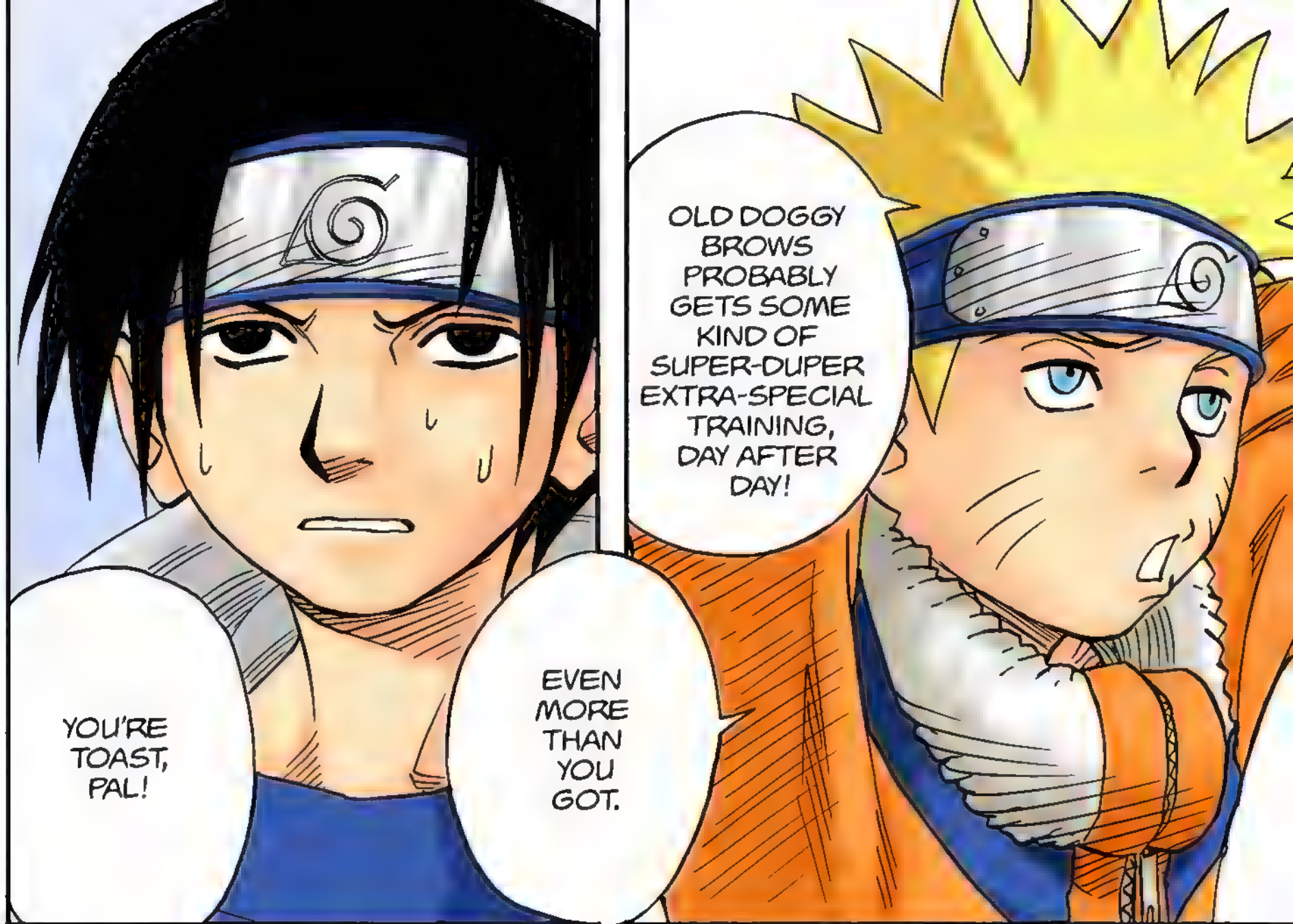




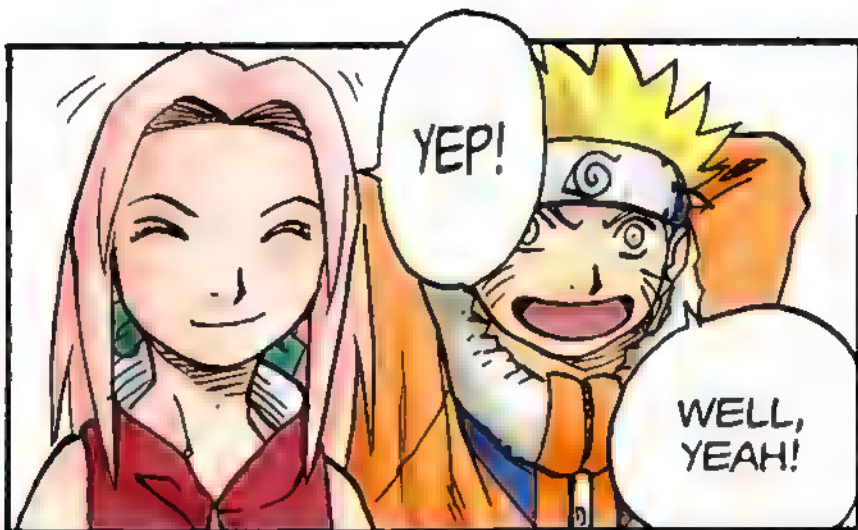
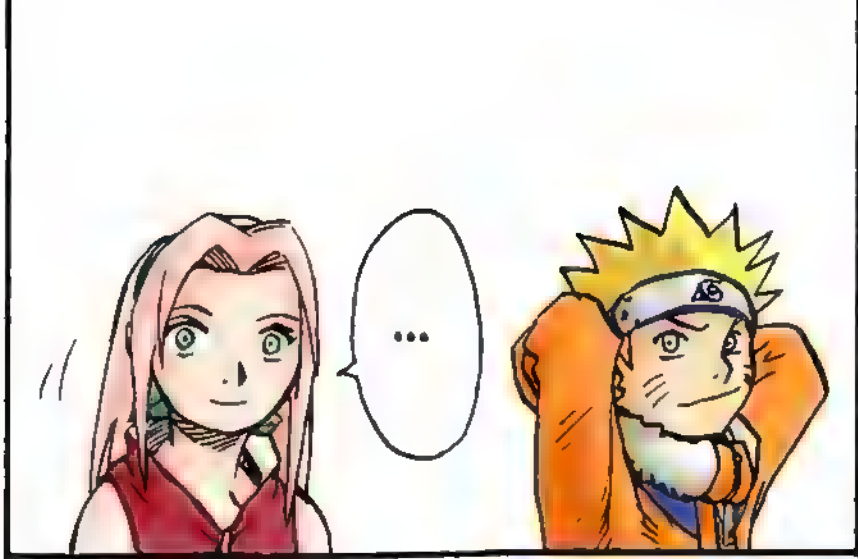




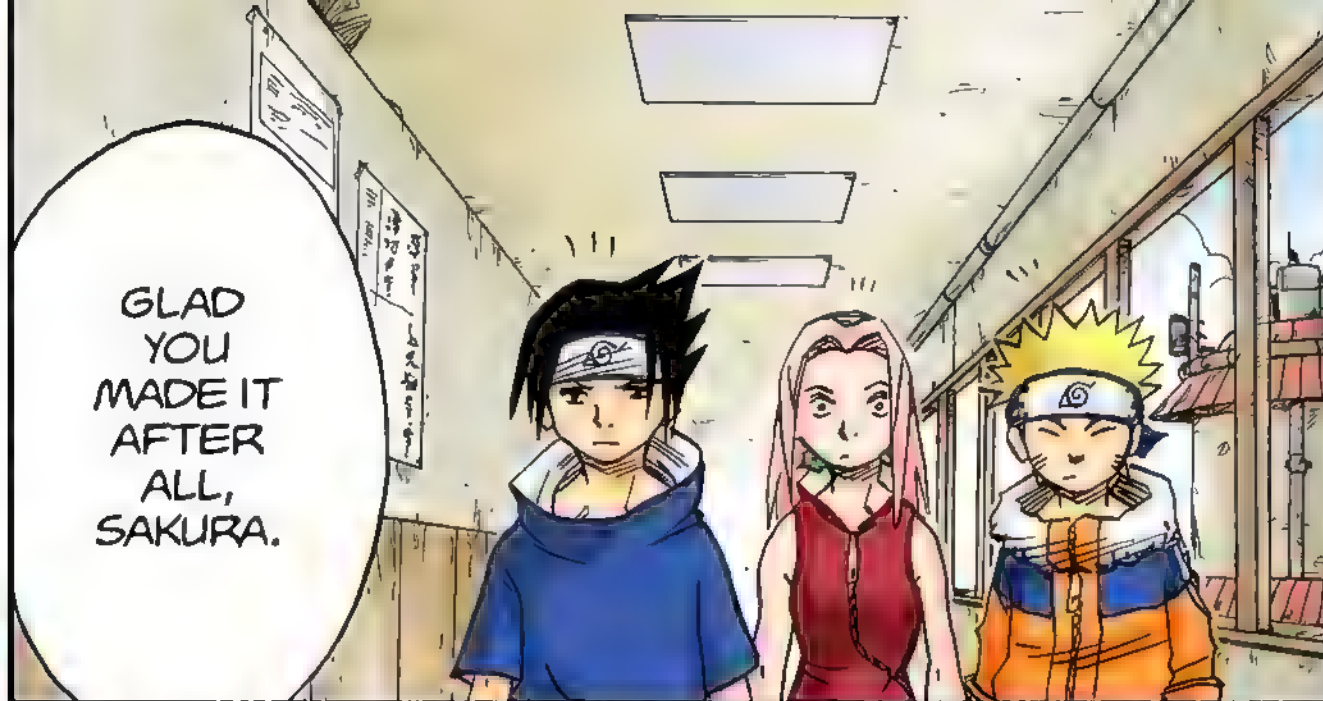




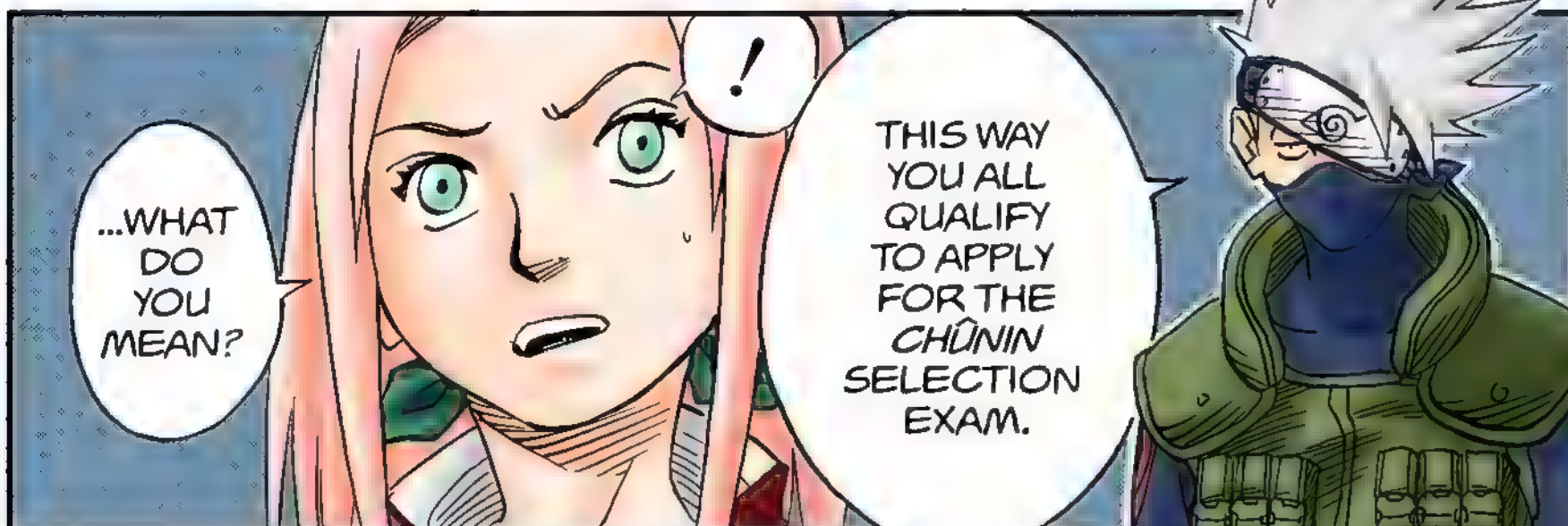
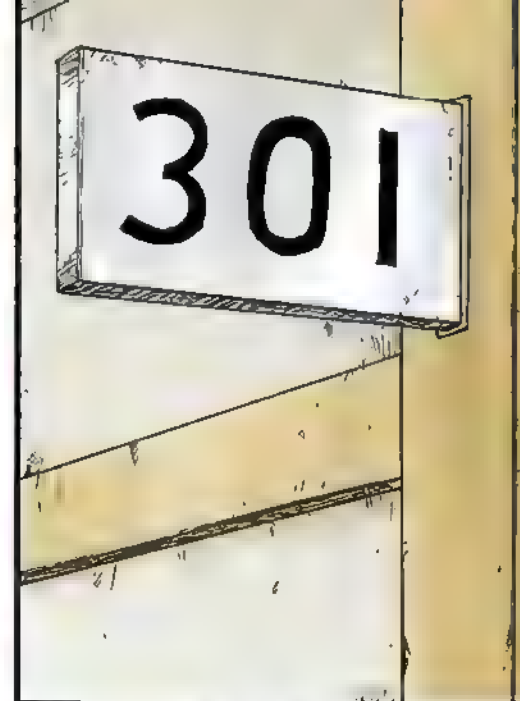






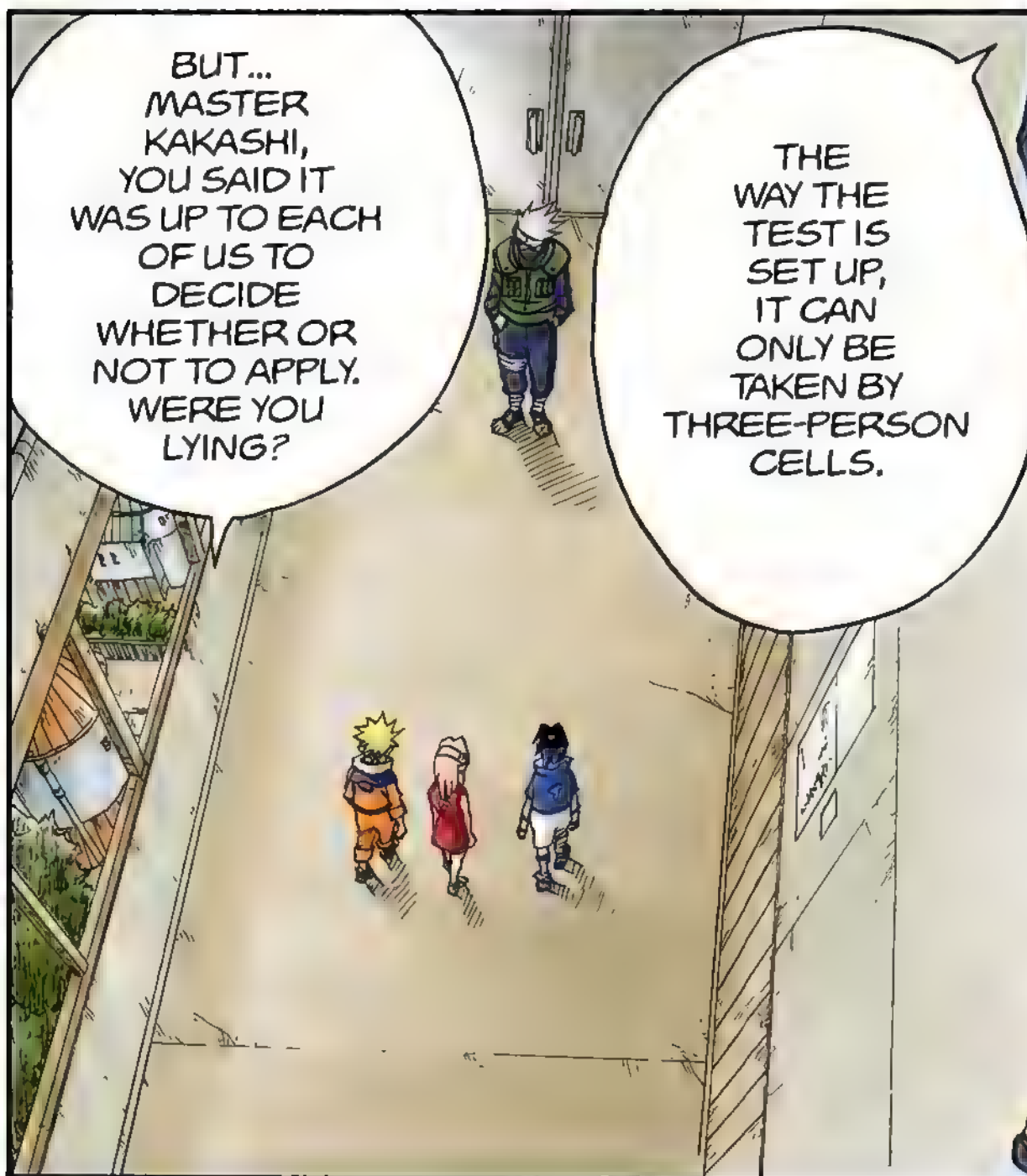


GLAD  
YOU  
MADE IT  
AFTER  
ALL,  
SAKURA.



...WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
MEAN?

THIS WAY  
YOU ALL  
QUALIFY  
TO APPLY  
FOR THE  
CHŪNIN  
SELECTION  
EXAM.



BUT...  
MASTER  
KAKASHI,  
YOU SAID IT  
WAS UP TO EACH  
OF US TO  
DECIDE  
WHETHER OR  
NOT TO APPLY.  
WERE YOU  
LYING?

THE  
WAY THE  
TEST IS  
SET UP,  
IT CAN  
ONLY BE  
TAKEN BY  
THREE-PERSON  
CELLS.





...AND YOU'D HAVE COME ALONG AND GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS, THOUGH YOUR HEART WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN IT.

EVEN IF YOU HAD NO INTEREST IN APPLYING, ONE WORD FROM SASUKE...

30

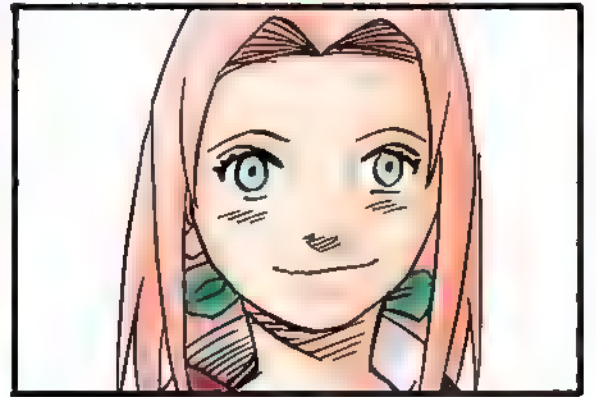
I SAID WHAT I HAD TO TO KEEP YOUR PARTNERS FROM PRESSURING YOU INTO COMING ALONG.

NOW GET IN THERE!

BUT YOU'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE. AND I'M VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOU.

I'D HAVE WASHED THEM OUT RIGHT HERE. NONE OF YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN PAST THIS POINT WITHOUT BOTH OF THE OTHERS.

WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF SASUKE AND NARUTO HAD SHOWN UP WITHOUT ME?



LOOK OUT EVERYBODY, 'CAUSE HERE WE COME!!



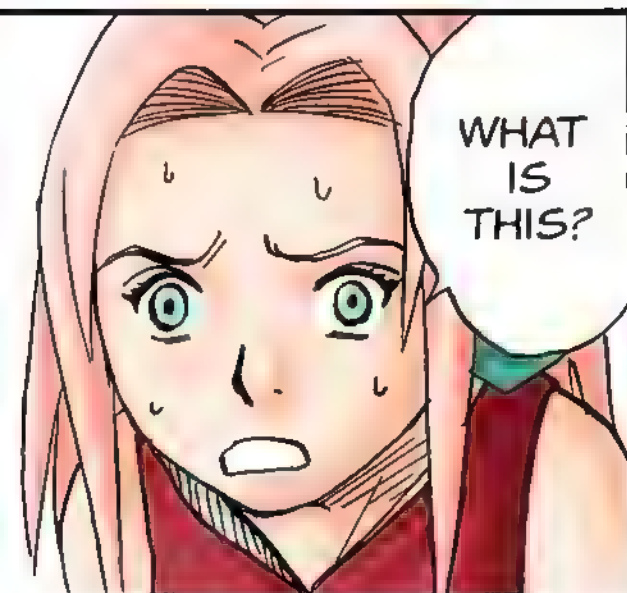
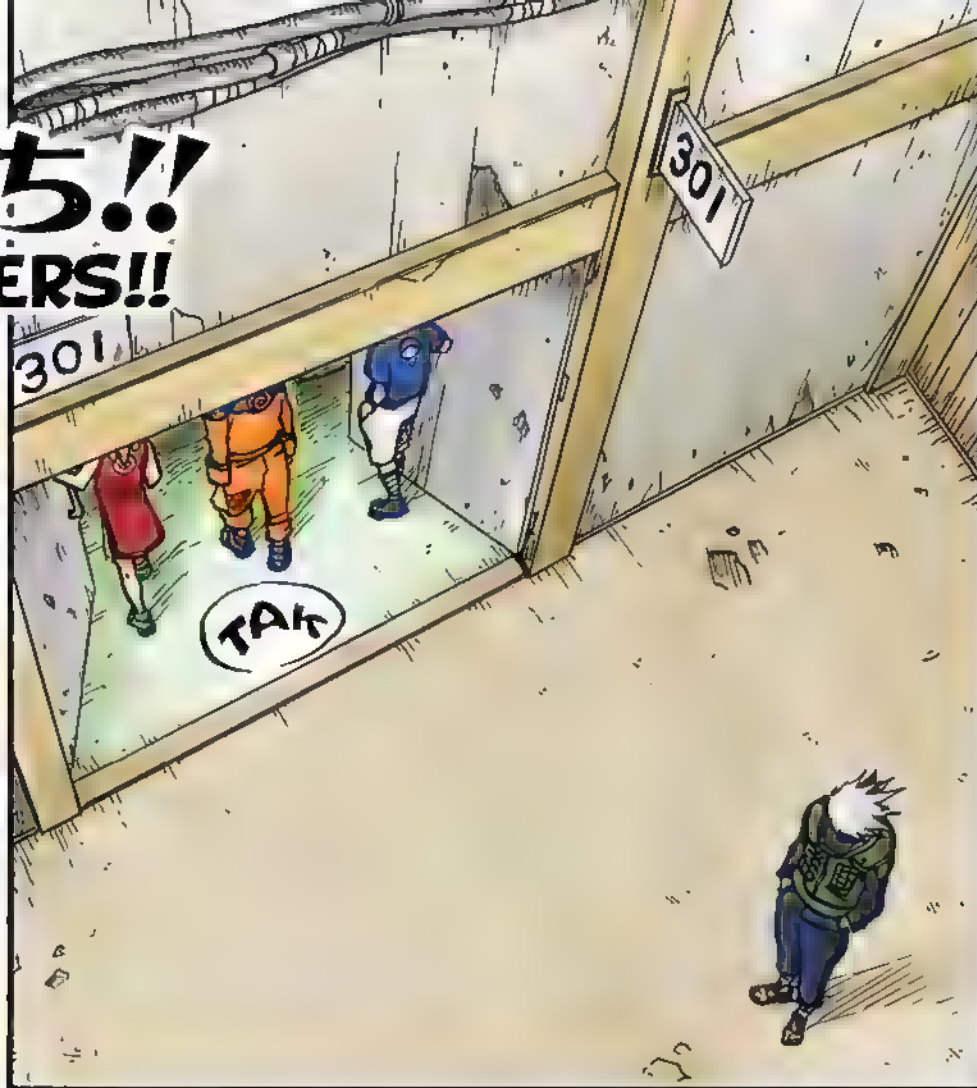
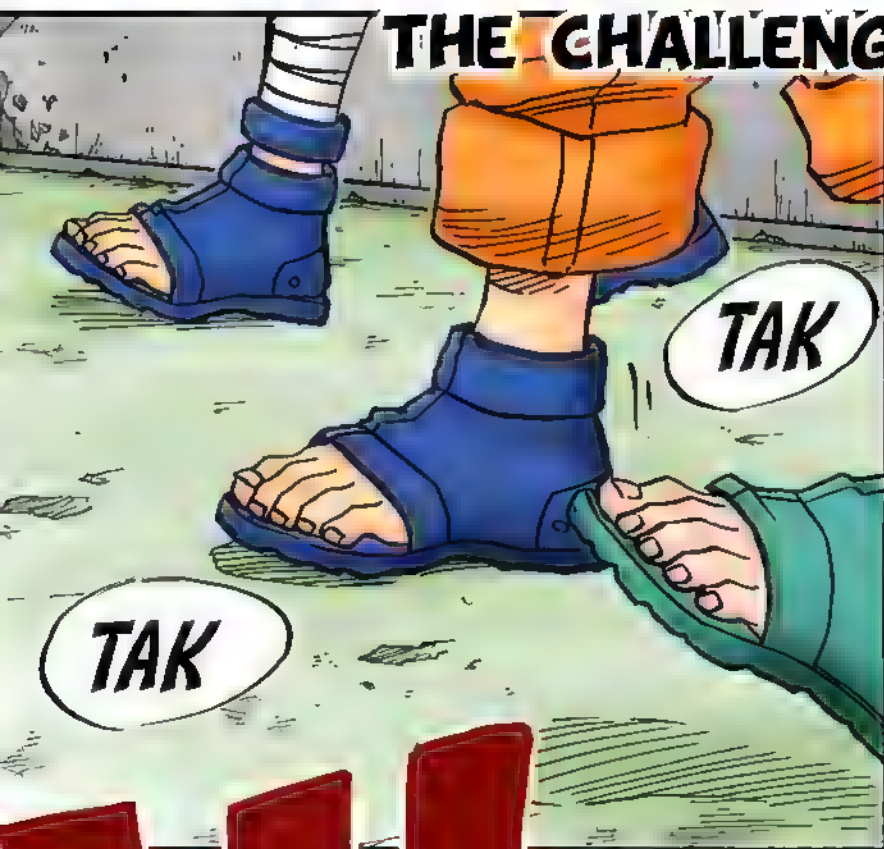






# 39: 挑戦者たち!!

## THE CHALLENGERS!!











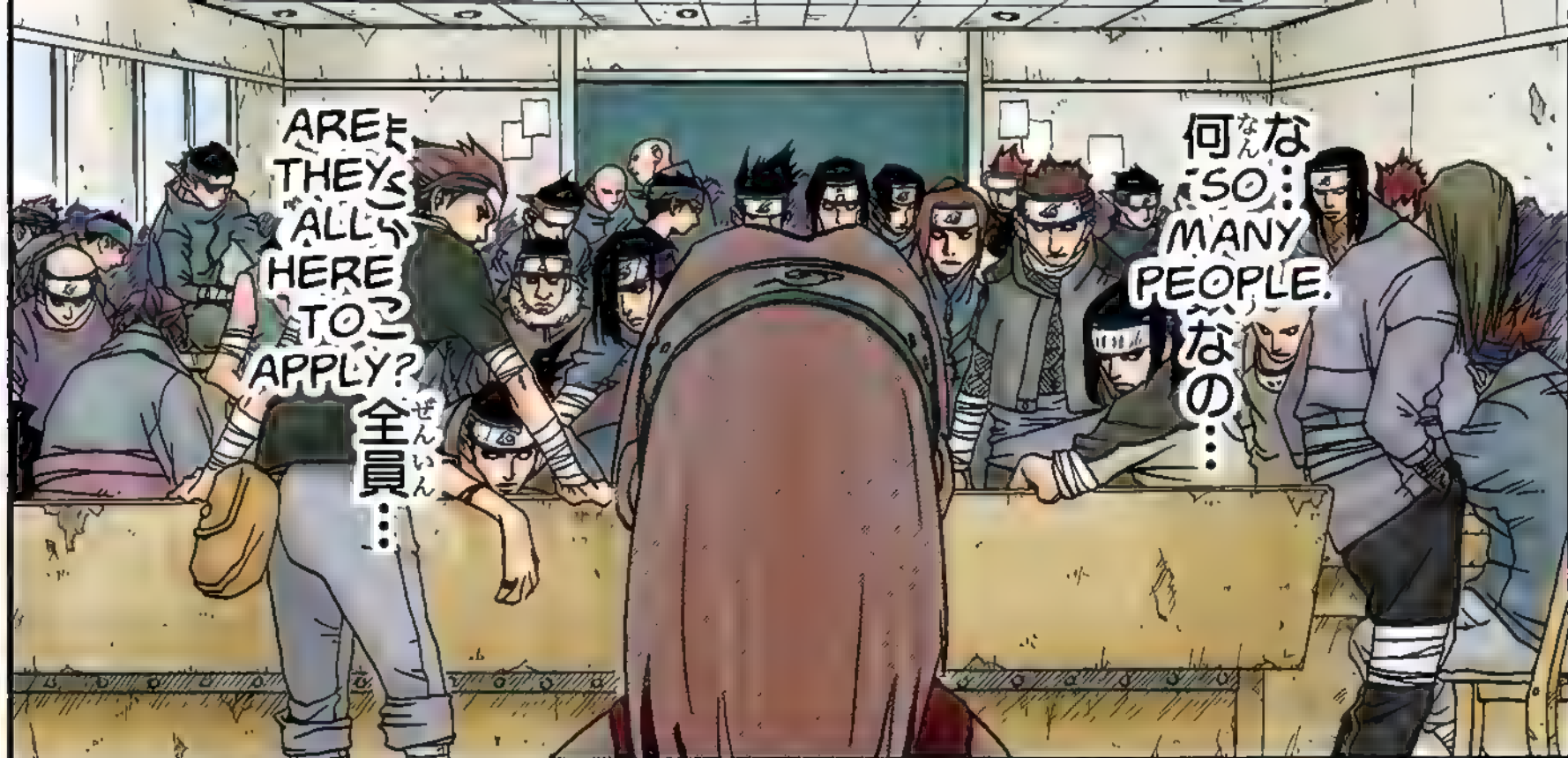
ナンバー

39

ちょうせんしゃ

挑戦者たち!!



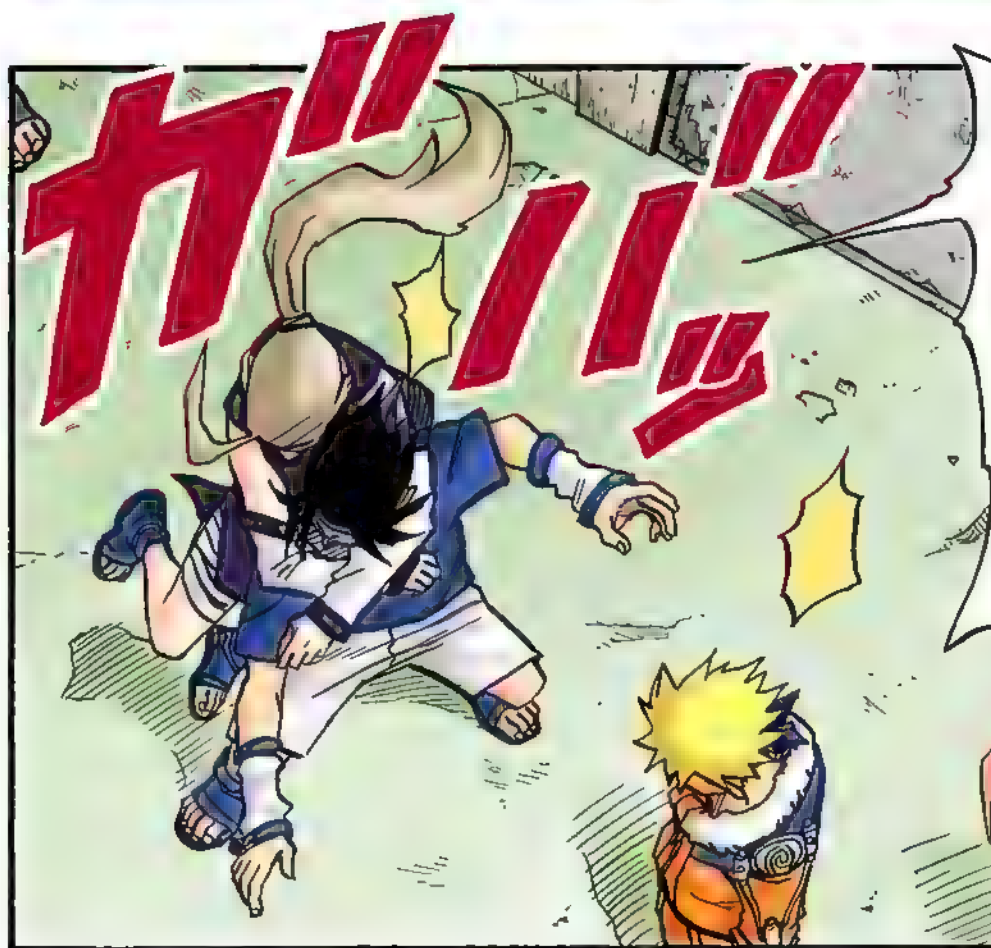


ARE THEY ALL HERE TO APPLY?

全員... (ゼンイン...)

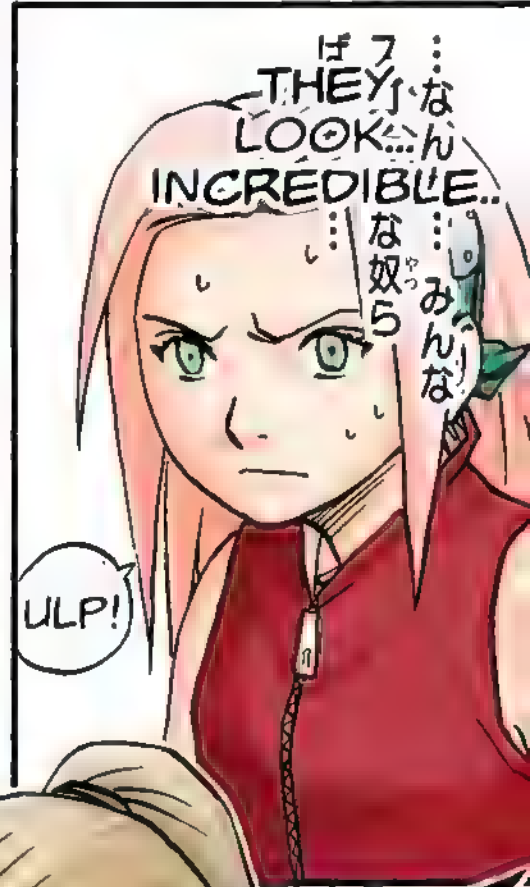
何なん SO MANY PEOPLE.

なの...



SASUKE! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN, CUTIE?

♡



げふ... THEY LOOK... INCREDIBLE...

...なん... 奴らみんな

ULP!



HELLO TO YOU, TOO, SAKURA.

INO, YOU PIG!!! GET YOUR HOOVES OFF SASUKE!

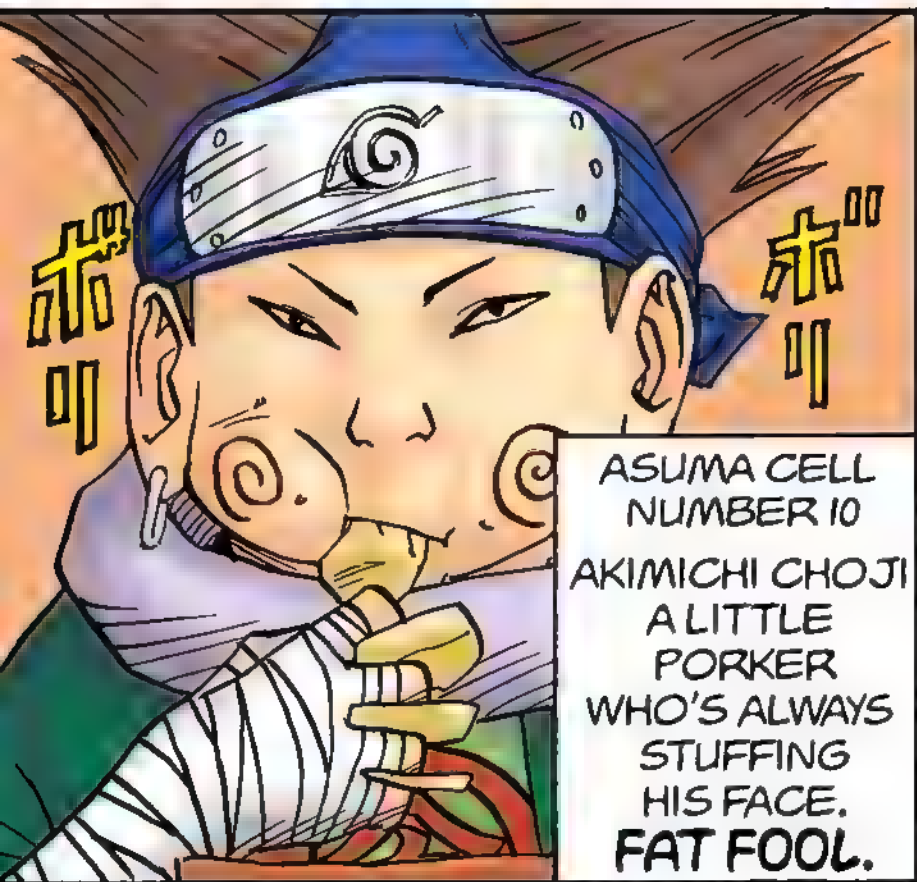
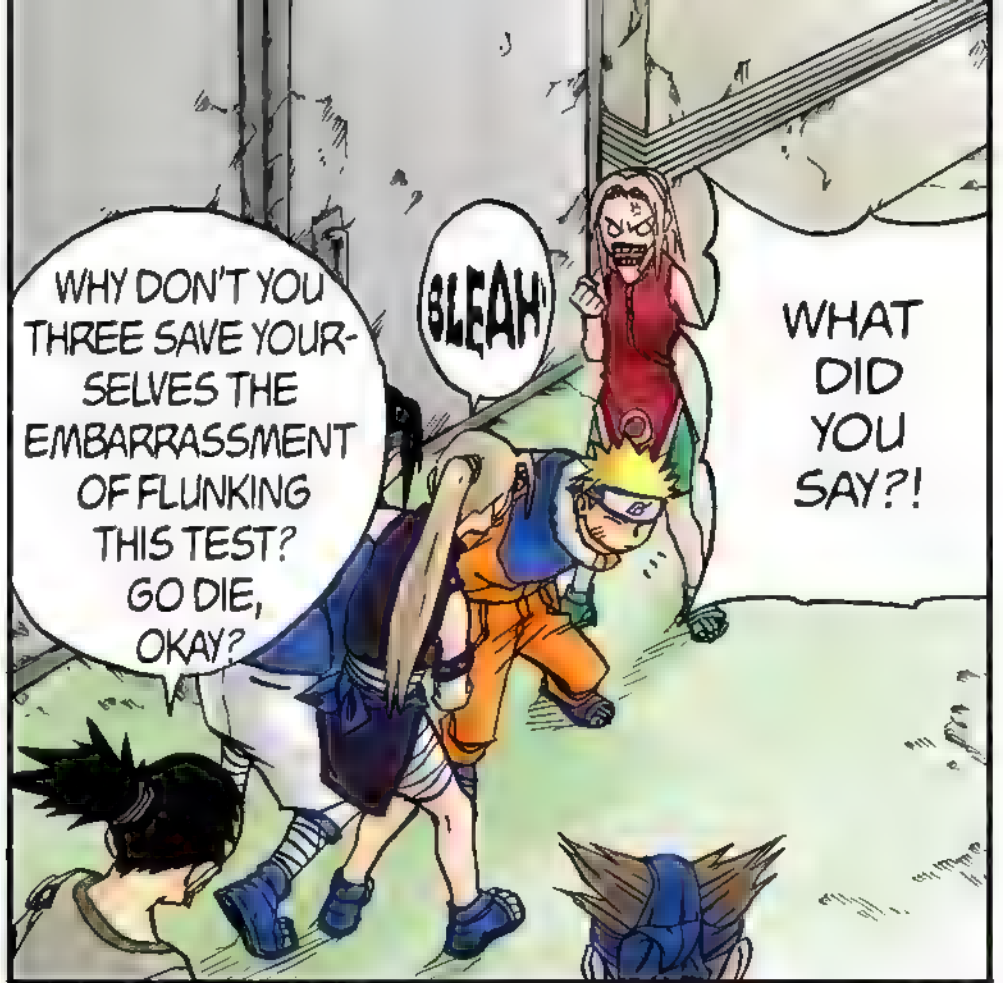
STILL HOPING THE BIG, MUTANT FOREHEAD LOOK IS GOING TO COME INTO FASHION, HUH? HOW SWEET.

♡



I COULD HARDLY WAIT! IT'S SO EXCITING, SEEING YOU AGAIN AFTER ALL THIS TIME!









LOOKS LIKE THE GANG'S ALL HERE.

UH... HI...



SO... I GUESS ALL THREE OF THIS YEAR'S NEWBIE TRIOS DECIDED TO APPLY, HUNH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK...  
...SASUKE?

I WONDER HOW FAR WE'LL ALL GET.

TAK

TAK



INCLUDING YOU... UNFORTUNATELY!



WHO'S ACTING? THE WAY WE'VE TRAINED, NO WAY CAN YOU BEAT US.

HEE HEE HEE!

OH, SHUT UP!! YOU GUYS WON'T EVEN BEAT ME, MUCH LESS SASUKE!

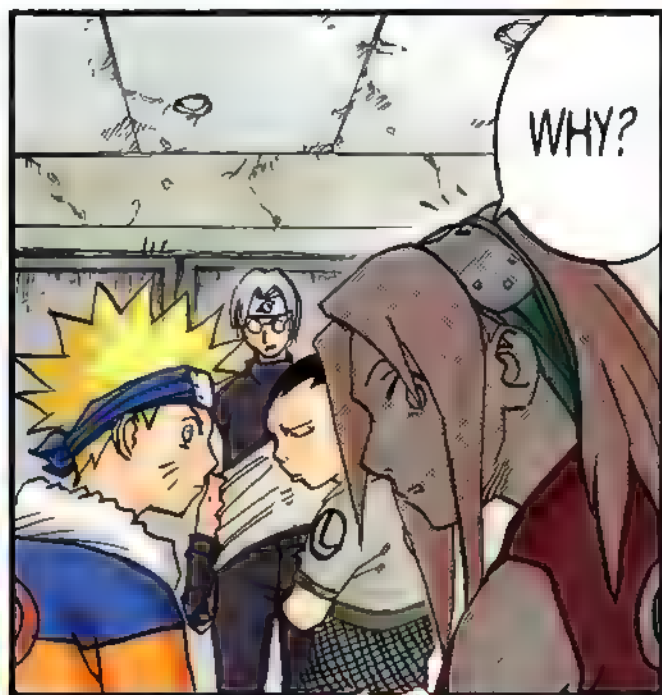
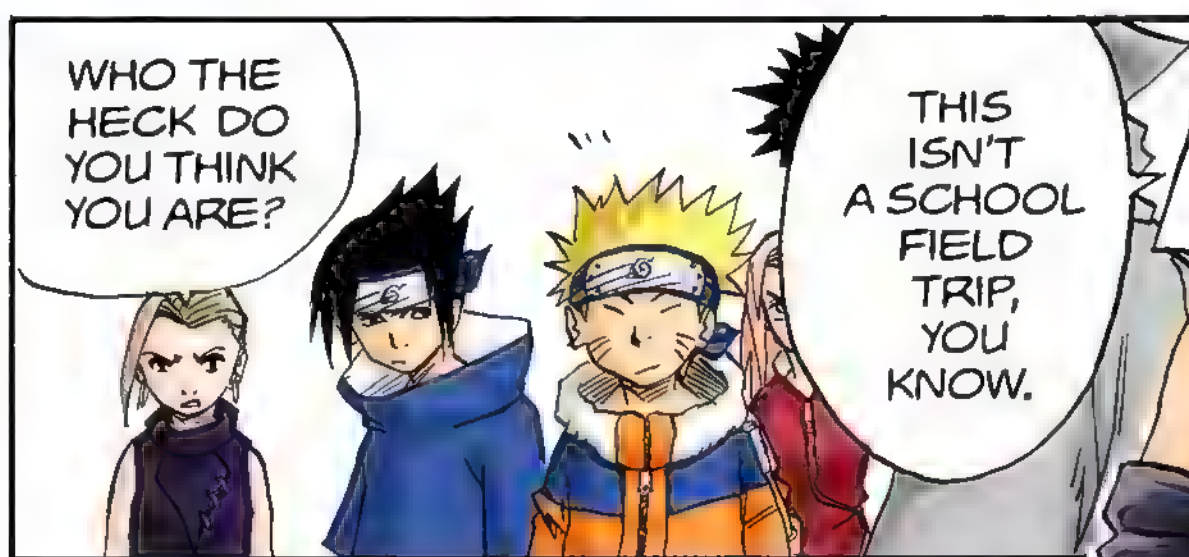
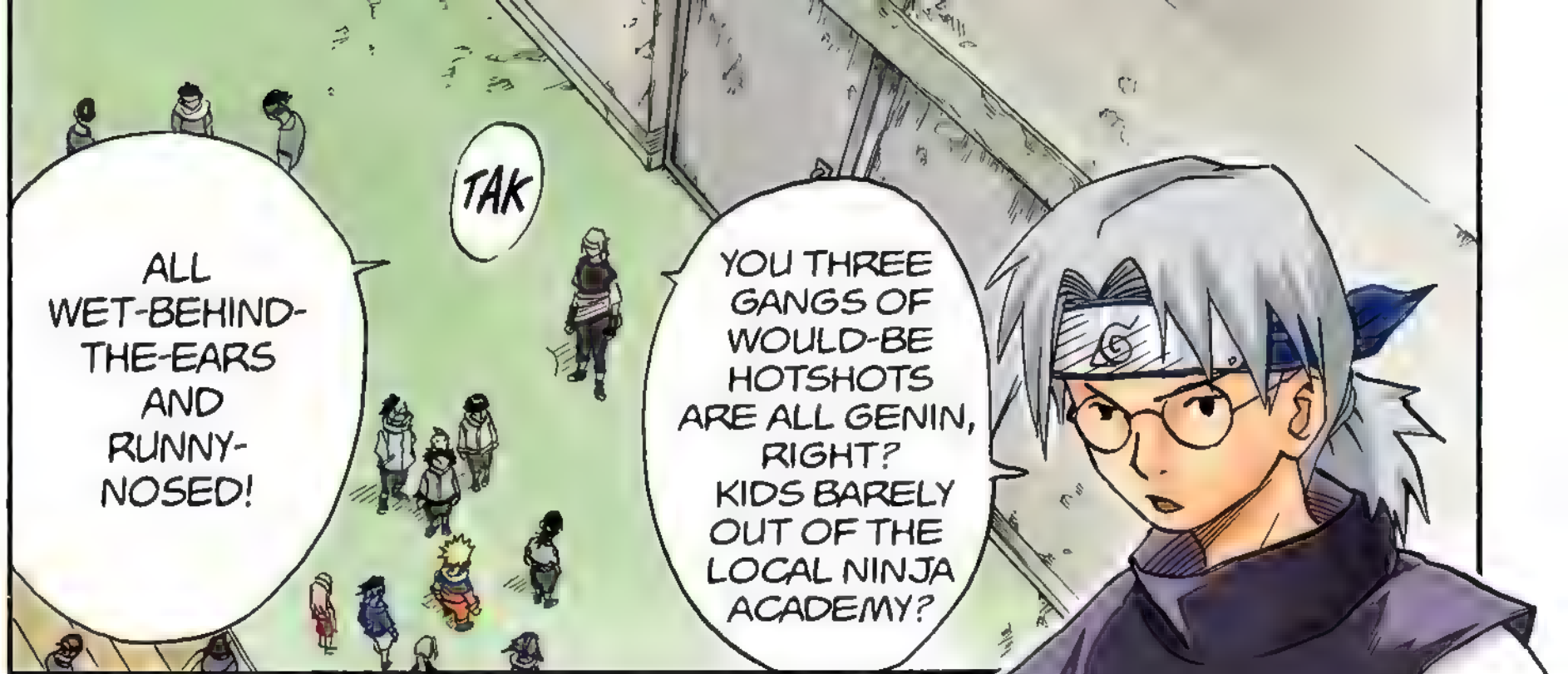


TRYING TO PSYCH US BY ACTING COOL, KIBA?

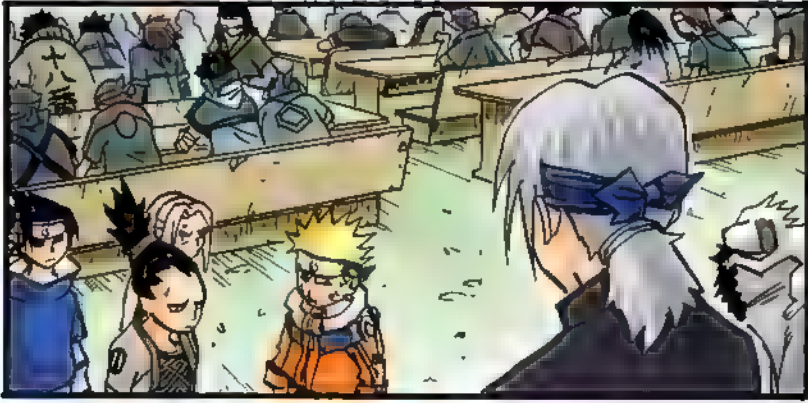










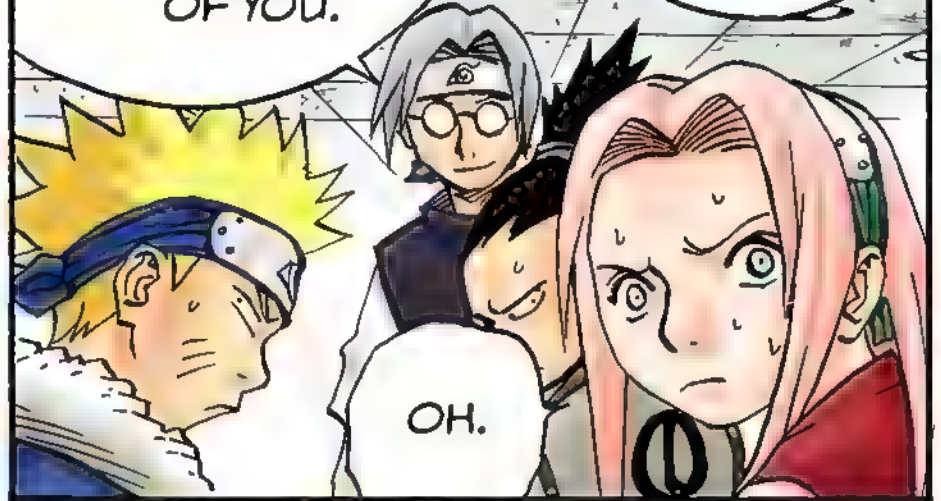


EVERYONE'S ON EDGE, WAITING TO TAKE THE EXAM. I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A HEADS-UP BEFORE SOMEONE SNAPS AND BEATS THE CRAP OUT OF YOU.

WATCH OUT FOR THE GROUP BEHIND YOU. THEY'RE AMAGAKURE-- THOSE-WHO-HIDE-IN-THE-RAIN-- AND THEY'VE GOT VERY SHORT FUSES.

I REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE.

BUT IT'S PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE. LIKE ALL ROOKIES, YOU THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING.



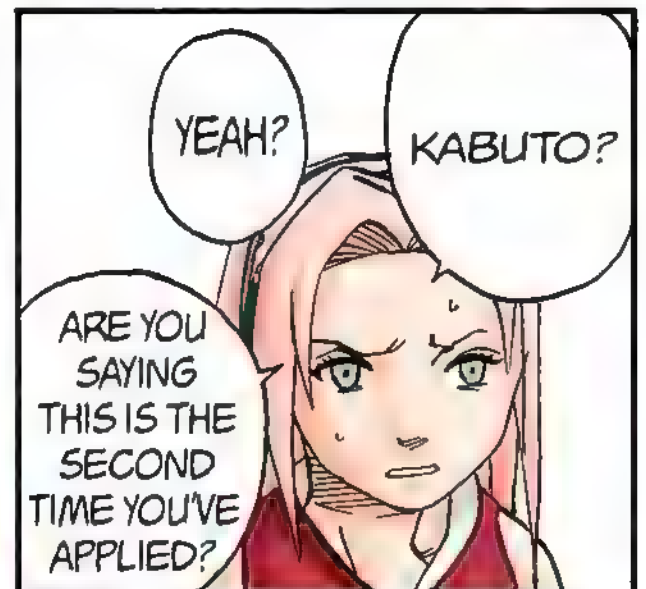
OH.



SEVENTH.

TWICE A YEAR FOR... HM, GOING ON FOUR YEARS NOW.

NOT SECOND...



YEAH?

KABUTO?

ARE YOU SAYING THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE APPLIED?



...WITH THESE SHINOBI SKILL CARDS.

CUTE. OKAY... THE LEAST I CAN DO IS GIVE YOU SWEET LITTLE BABIES SOME VITAL INTELLIGENCE ON WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...

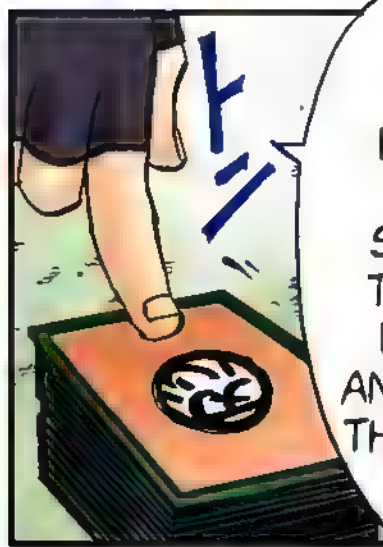


ALL RIGHT! KABUTO, BUDDY... YOU ARE THE MAN!!  
♡

I GUESS SO.

WOW-- THEN YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH WHAT WE CAN EXPECT!





TO PUT IT  
SIMPLY, THEY  
CONTAIN  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE  
SKILLS WE USE,  
TRANSFORMED  
INTO SYMBOLS  
AND BURNED INTO  
THE CARDS USING  
CHAKRAS.

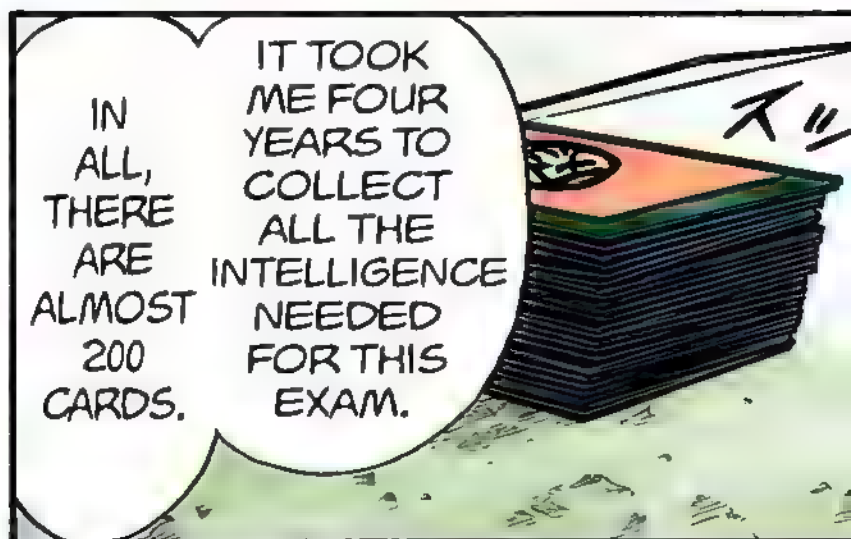


SHINOBI  
SKILL  
CARDS?



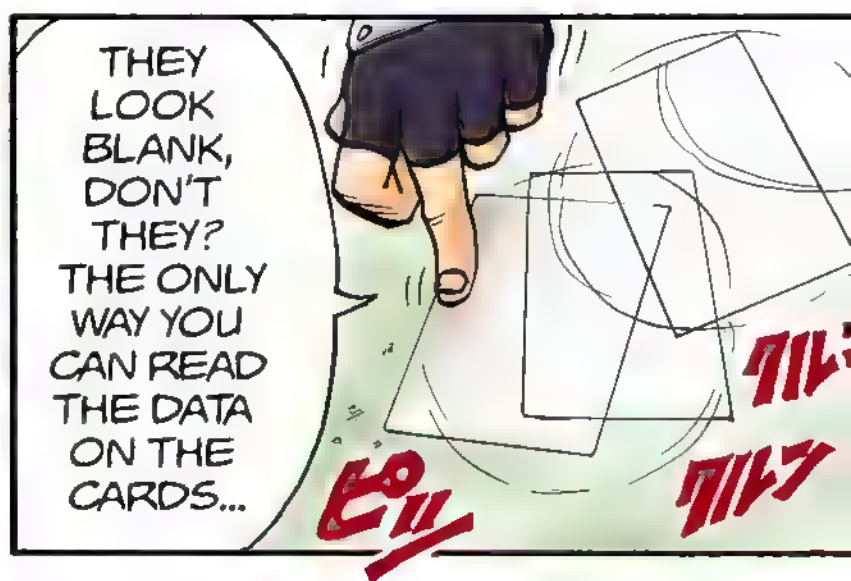
...IS BY USING  
MY OWN  
PERSONAL  
CHAKRA.  
EACH SET IS  
LINKED TO ITS  
POSSESSOR.  
FOR EXAMPLE,  
CARDS LIKE  
THIS ONE...

WHAT'S  
HE  
DOING?

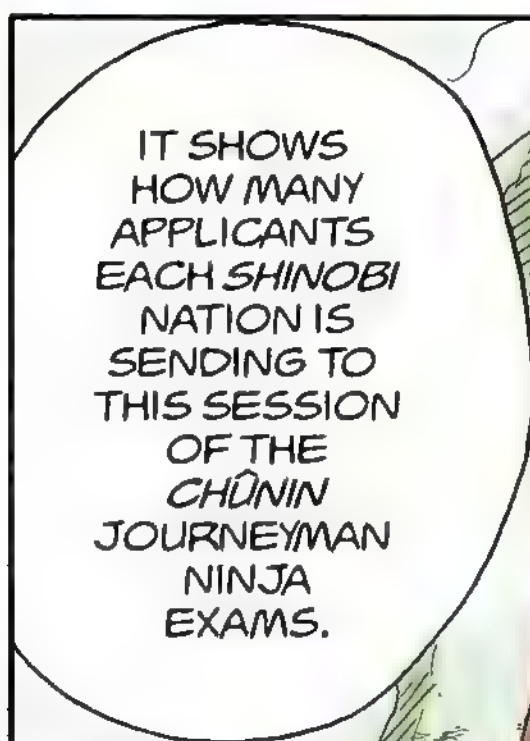


IN  
ALL,  
THERE  
ARE  
ALMOST  
200  
CARDS.

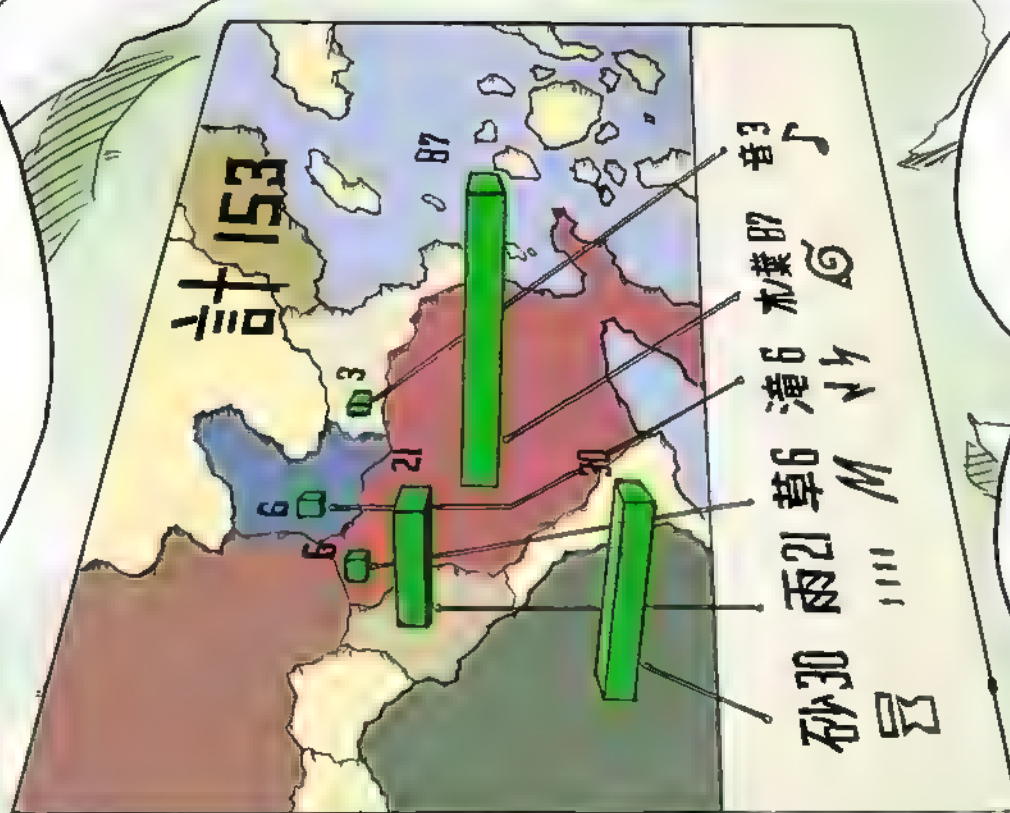
IT TOOK  
ME FOUR  
YEARS TO  
COLLECT  
ALL THE  
INTELLIGENCE  
NEEDED  
FOR THIS  
EXAM.



THEY  
LOOK  
BLANK,  
DON'T  
THEY?  
THE ONLY  
WAY YOU  
CAN READ  
THE DATA  
ON THE  
CARDS...



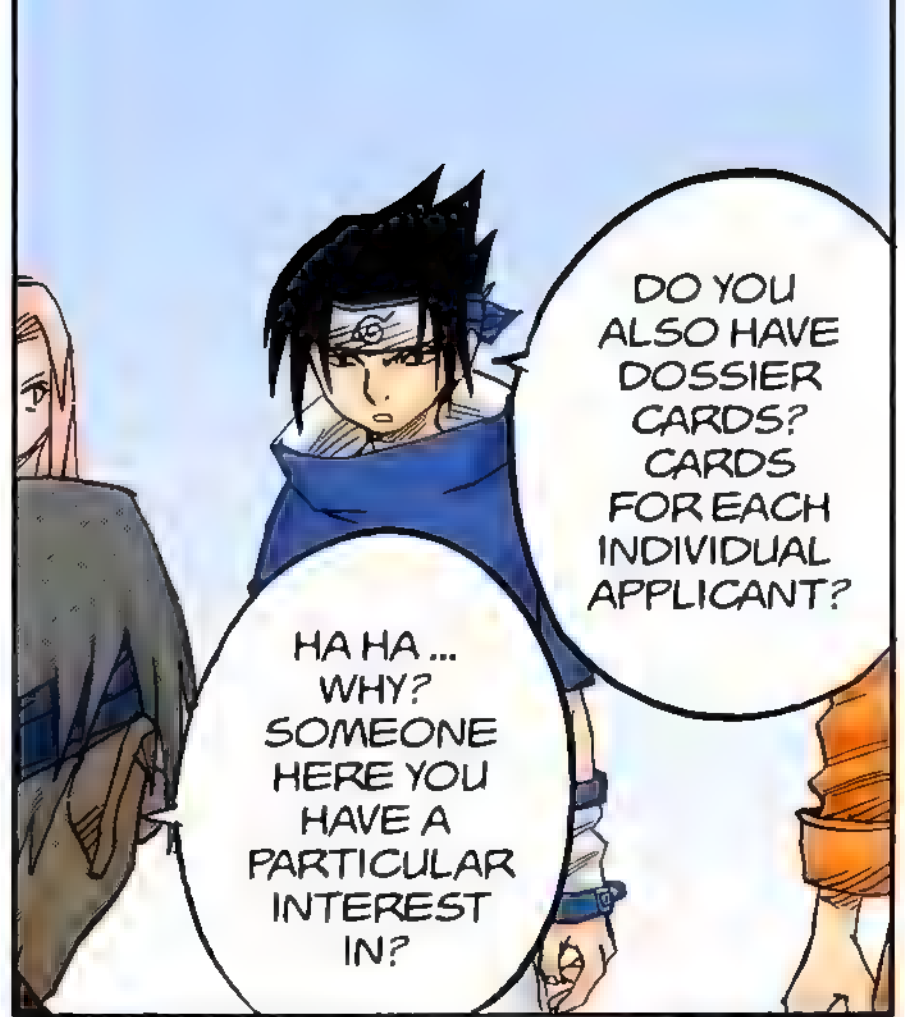
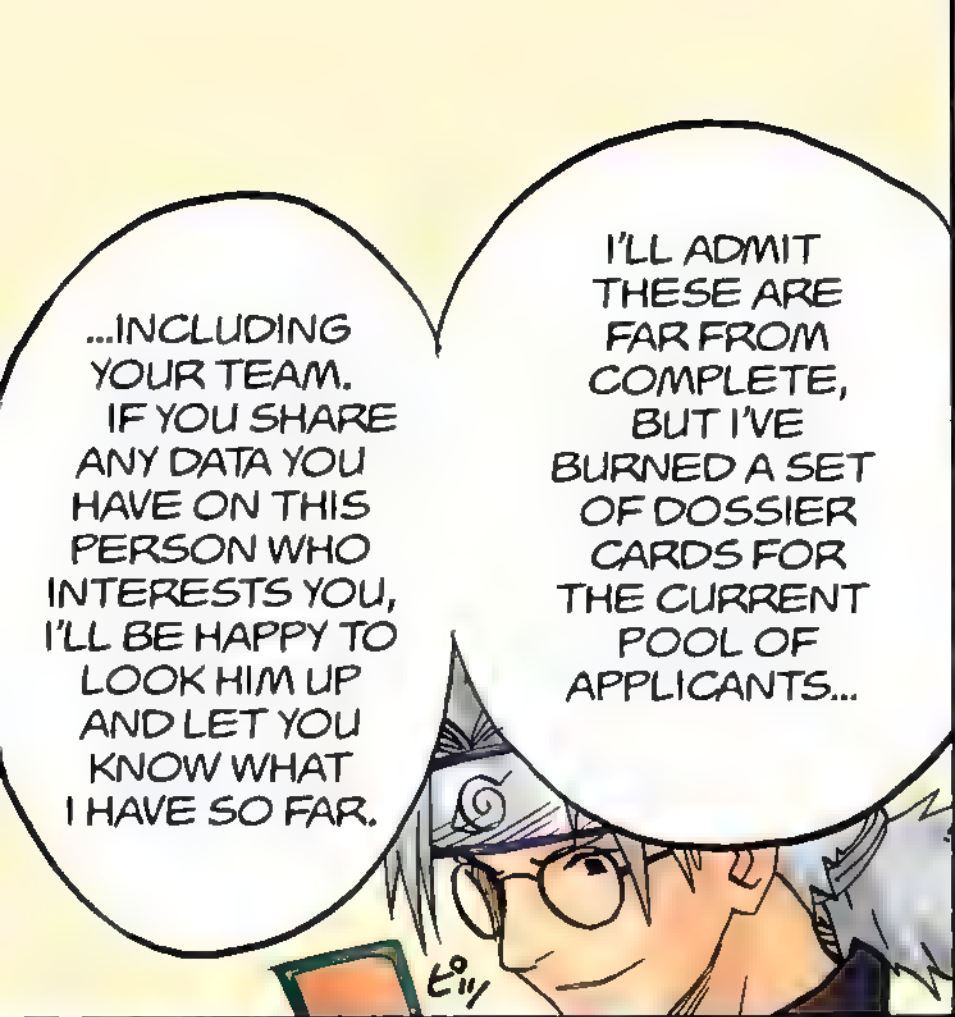
IT SHOWS  
HOW MANY  
APPLICANTS  
EACH SHINOBI  
NATION IS  
SENDING TO  
THIS SESSION  
OF THE  
CHŪNIN  
JOURNEYMAN  
NINJA  
EXAMS.



IT'S SOME  
KIND OF  
COMBINATION  
MAP AND  
BAR GRAPH,  
IN THREE  
DIMENSIONS!

WHAT  
KIND OF  
INTELLIGENCE  
IS THIS?

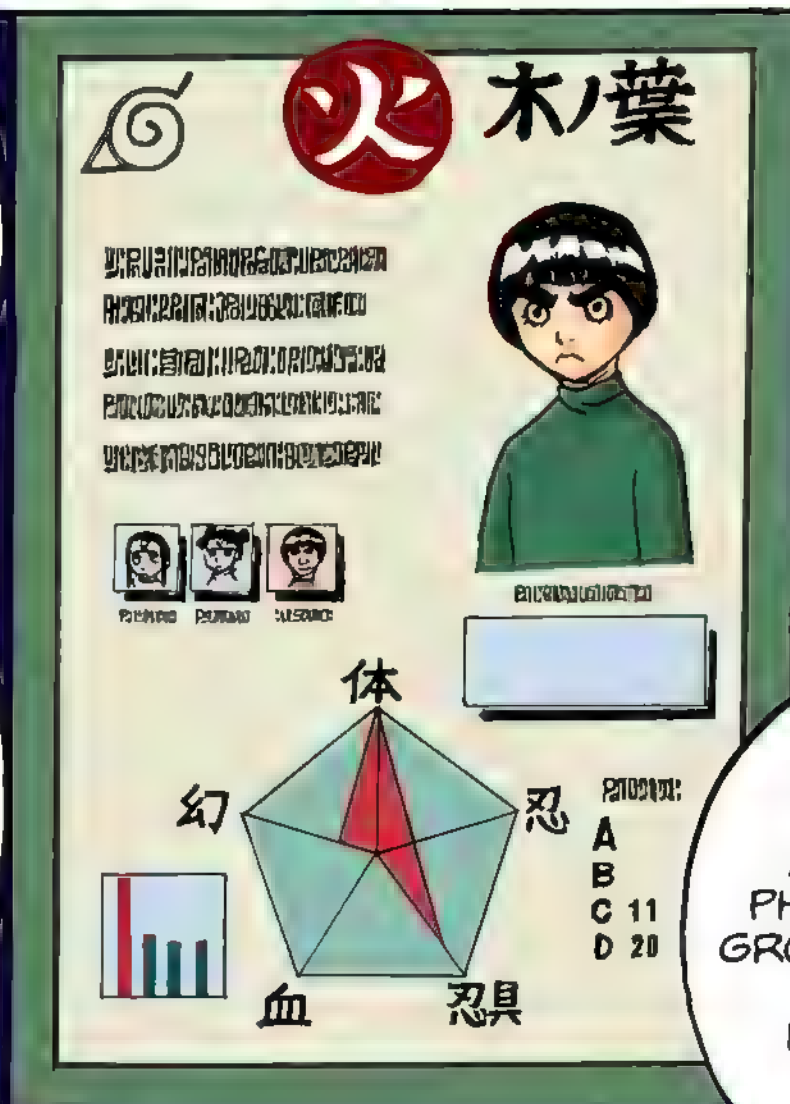






HE WAS  
CONSIDERED  
A STANDOUT  
AMONG LAST  
YEAR'S GENIN...  
BUT HE  
DIDN'T APPLY  
FOR THE  
CHŪNIN EXAM.

HE'S A FRST-  
TIMER,  
LIKE YOU  
THREE.  
HIS  
TEAMMATES  
ARE NAMED  
HYUGA  
NEJI AND  
TENTEN.



FIRST  
UP  
IS  
ROCK  
LEE.

HE'S A YEAR  
OLDER THAN YOU  
THREE. MISSIONS  
TO DATE:  
20 D-RANKED,  
11 C-RANKED. HIS  
TEAM'S MENTOR  
IS MIGHT GUY...

AND HIS TAIJUTSU  
PHYSICAL SKILLS HAVE  
GROWN EXPONENTIALLY  
THIS PAST YEAR.  
HE HAS NO OTHER  
TALENTS WORTH  
MENTIONING.

SINCE HE'S  
FROM WAY OUT  
IN THE DESERT,  
I HAVE LESS  
ON HIM...  
BUT IT'S  
INTERESTING.  
HE'S COME  
BACK FROM  
EVERY MISSION  
COMPLETELY  
UNSCATHED.

WITHOUT  
A  
SCRATCH...

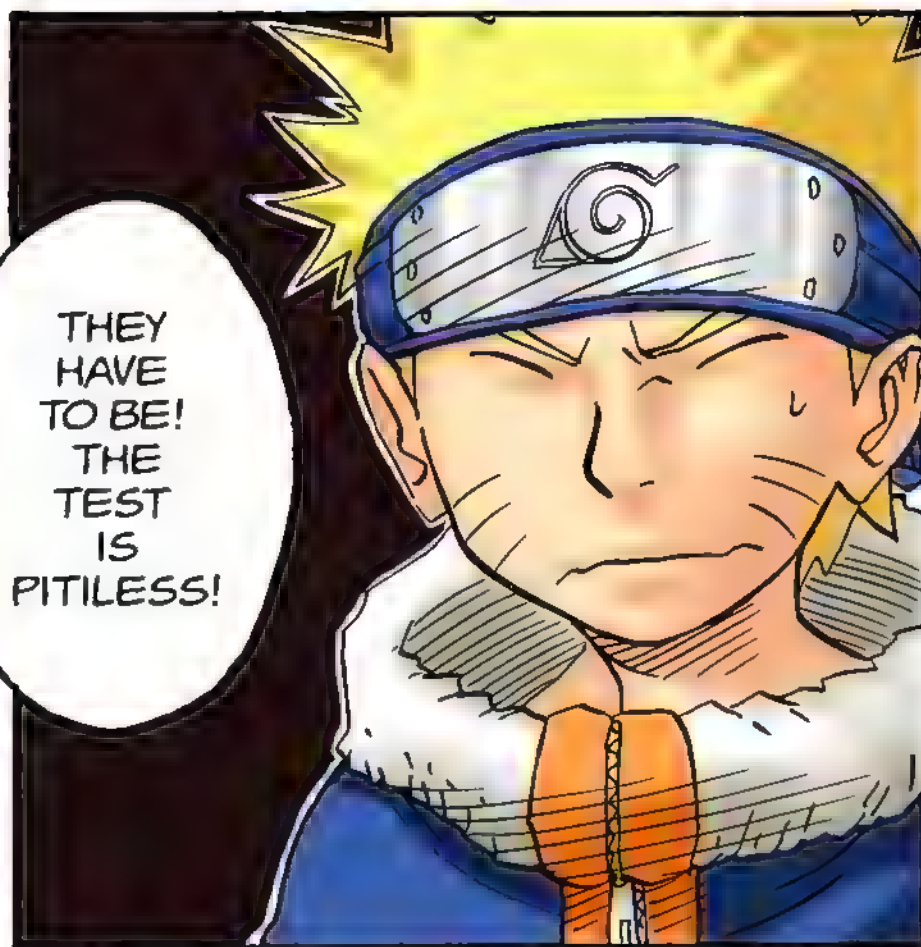
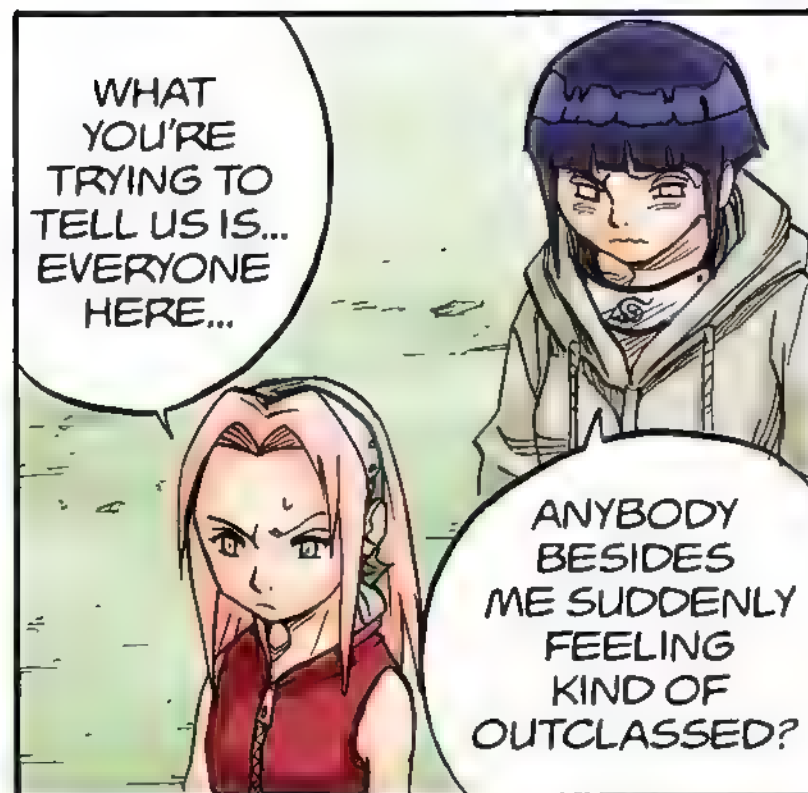
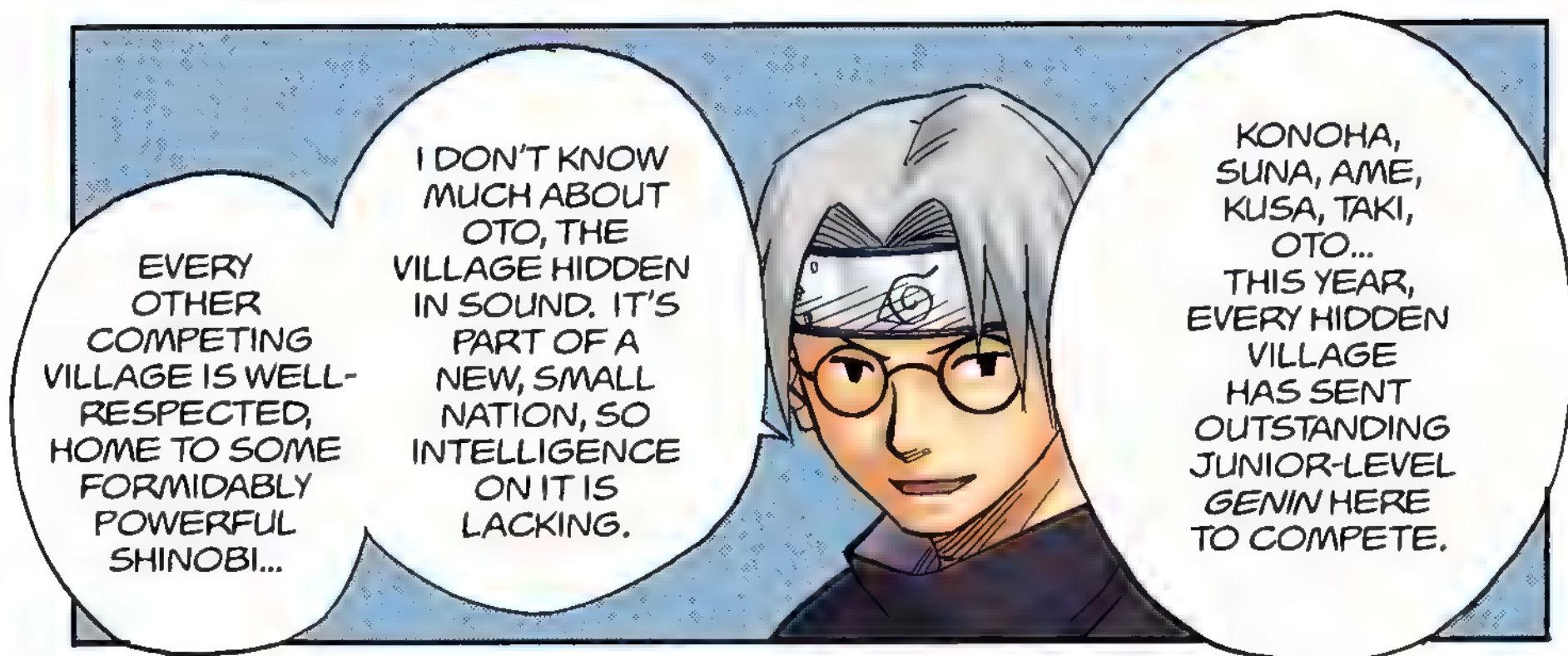


NEXT  
IS GAARA  
OF THE  
SAND...  
DESERT  
COUNTRY...

EIGHT  
C-RANKED  
MISSIONS...  
ONE B.  
WOW!  
NOT MANY  
ROOKIE  
SHINOBI GET  
B-RANKED  
ASSIGNMENTS!











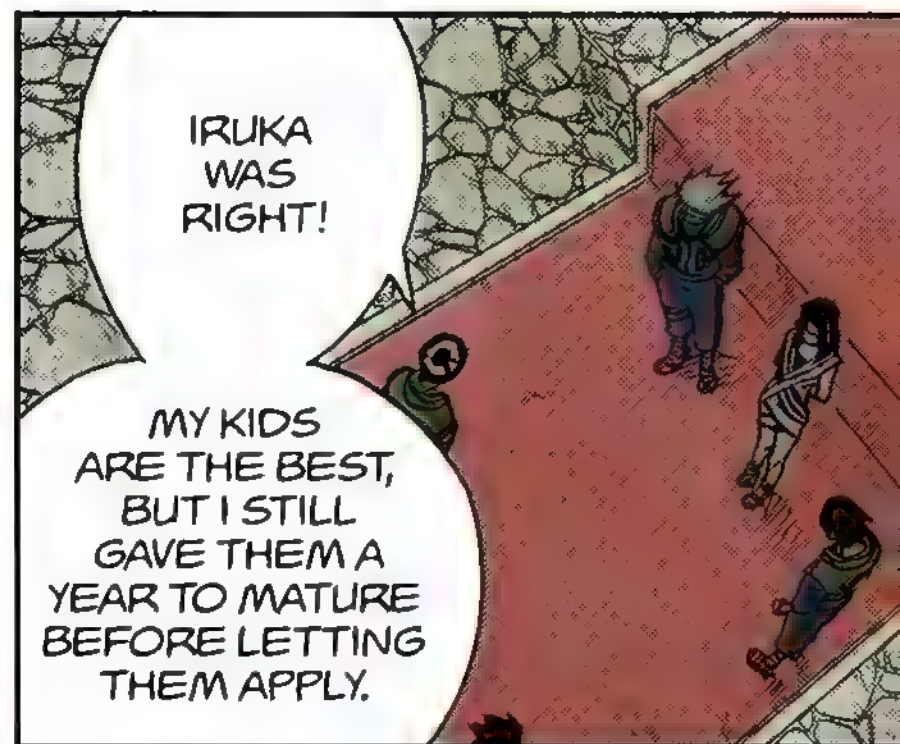
YOU'RE  
RUSHING  
THEM  
INTO  
IT!

IT'S  
A  
HARSH  
AND  
UNFORGIVING  
TEST,  
KAKASHI!



GIVE  
YOUR  
CELL  
TIME TO  
BUILD  
SOME  
STRENGTH.

HEH...



IRUKA  
WAS  
RIGHT!

MY KIDS  
ARE THE BEST,  
BUT I STILL  
GAVE THEM A  
YEAR TO MATURE  
BEFORE LETTING  
THEM APPLY.



FOR OUR  
NEXT ORDER  
OF BUSINESS,  
I'LL CONSIDER  
RECOMMENDATION  
FOR GENIN  
CANDIDATES  
WHO HAVE PASSED  
THEIR FIRST  
YEAR.

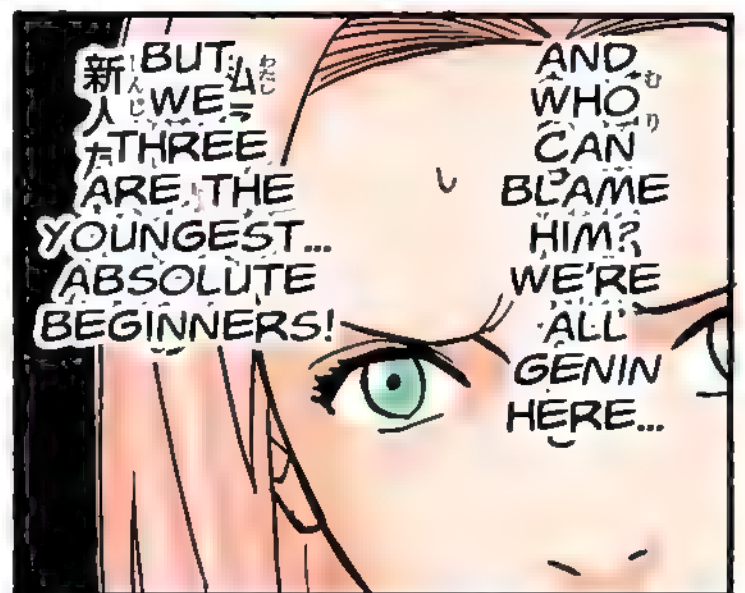
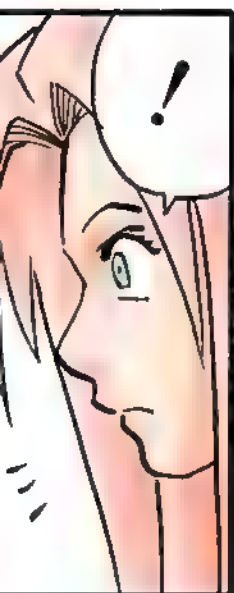
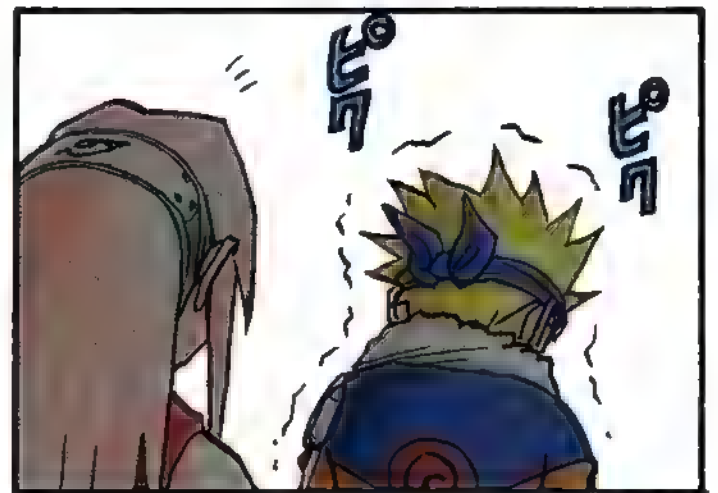
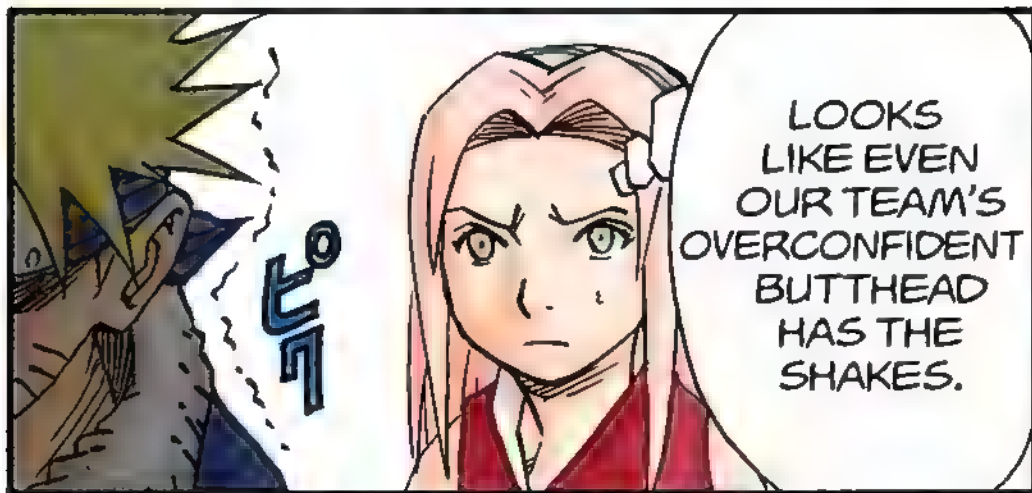
ENOUGH  
OF  
THIS.



WHAT  
MY KIDS  
LACK IN  
EXPERIENCE,  
THEY MORE  
THAN MAKE  
UP IN  
SURPRISES,  
GUY.

BAH!





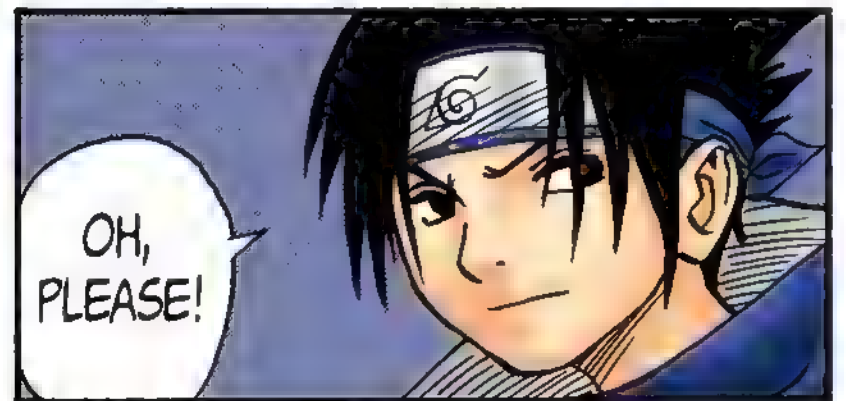
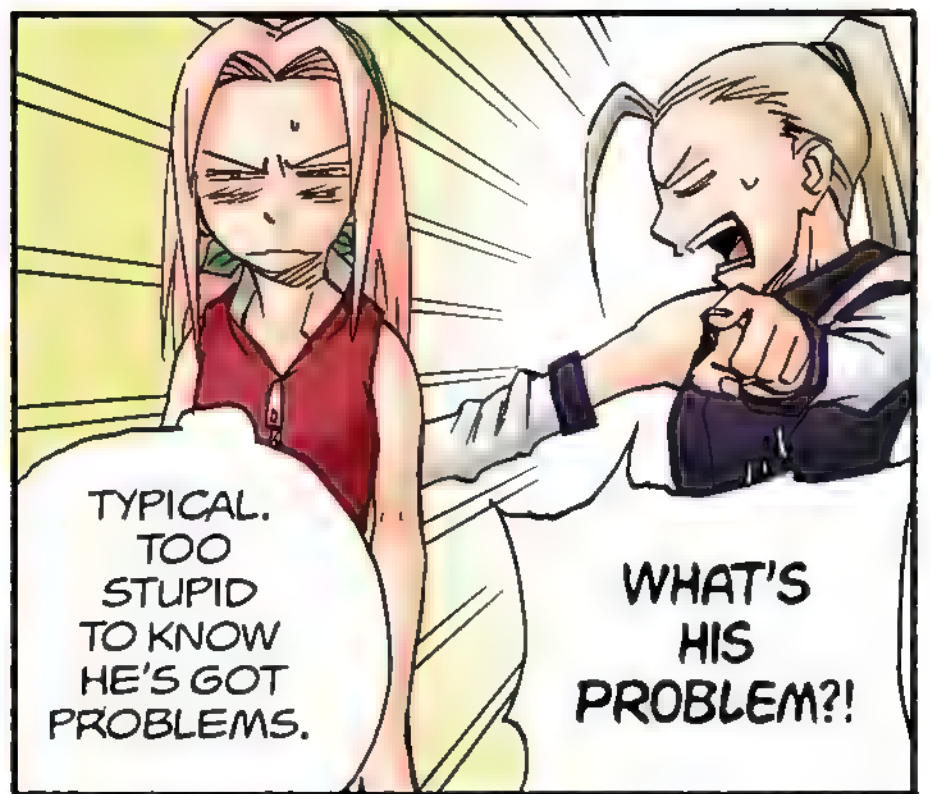


AND  
NONE  
OF  
YOU  
ARE  
GONNA  
BEAT  
ME!!!!

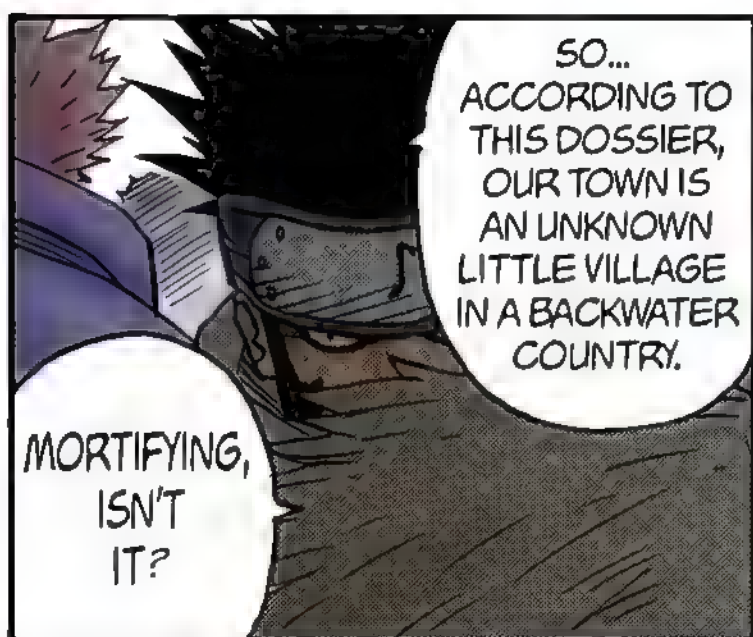
MY  
NAME IS  
UZUMAKI  
NARUTO!!













ナンバー

だい いち

し けん



40

第

一

の

試

験

!!

THE FIRST TEST!!

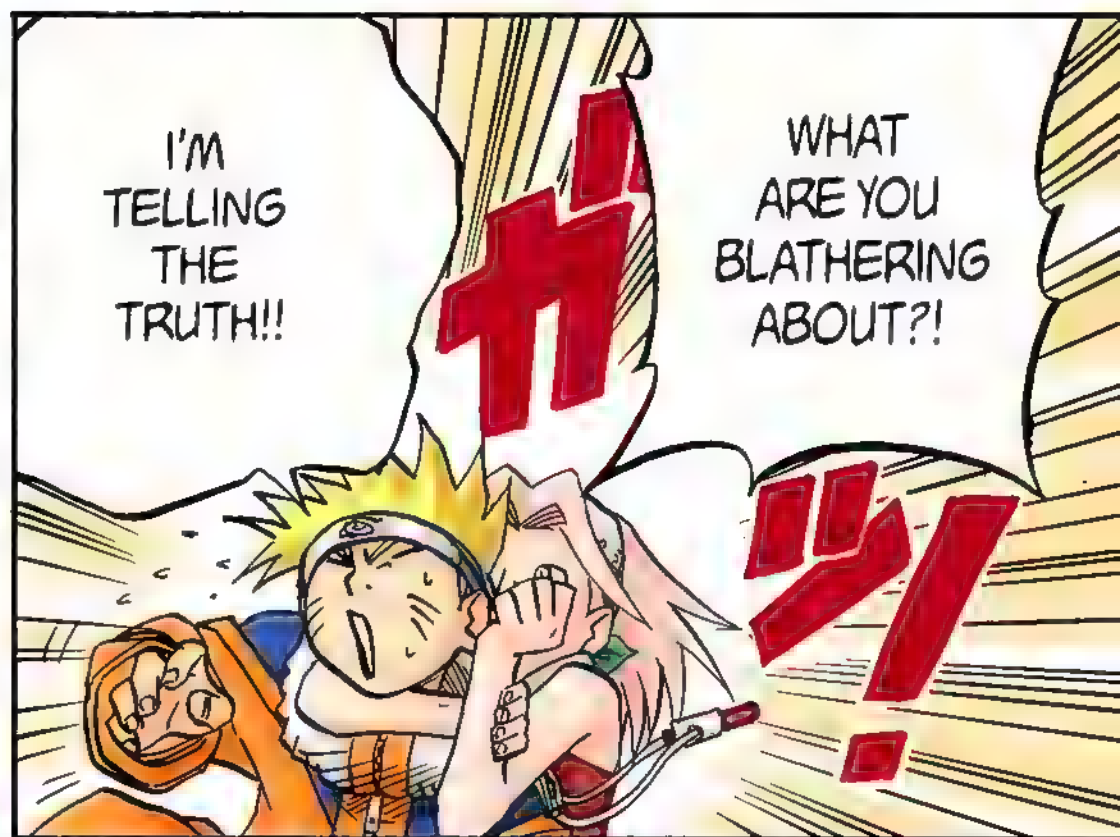






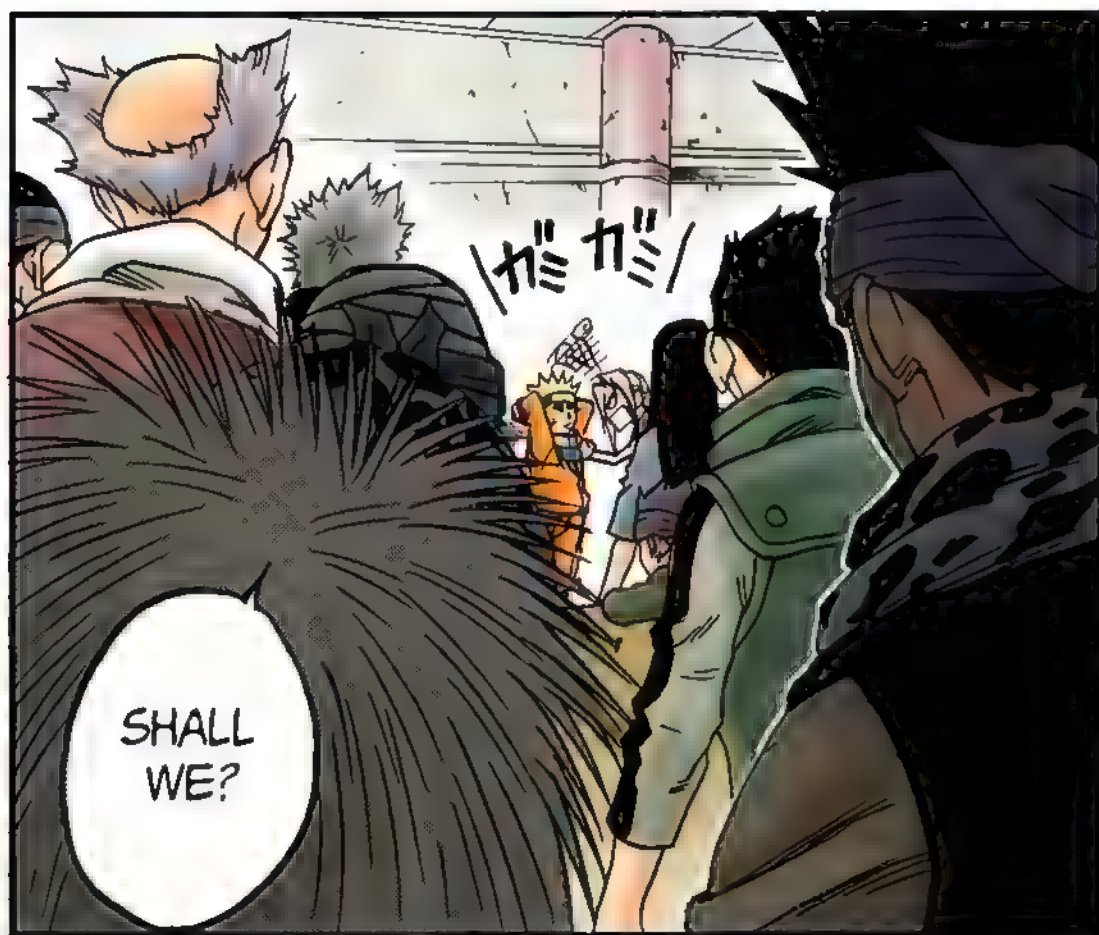
THAT IDIOT  
TURNED A  
ROOM  
FULL OF  
STRANGERS  
INTO A  
ROOM FULL  
OF ENEMIES  
WITH JUST  
ONE  
SENTENCE.

"AND NONE  
OF YOU ARE  
GONNA  
BEAT ME!"  
THE NERVE  
OF THAT KID!  
  
LITTLE SHOW-OFF!

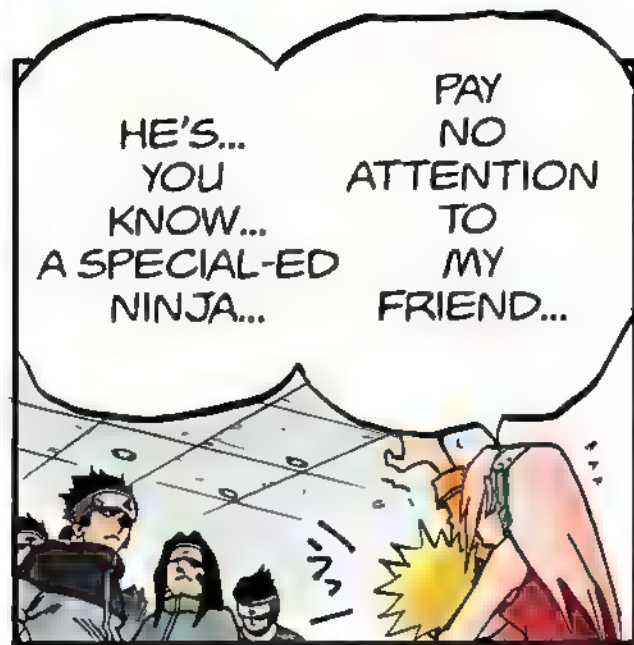
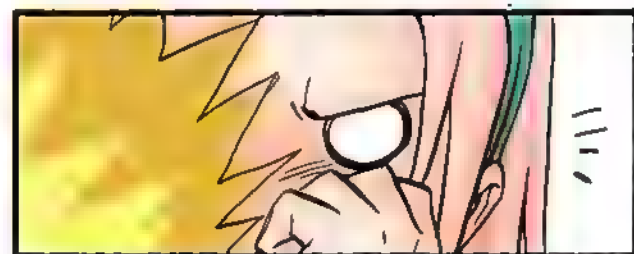


I'M  
TELLING  
THE  
TRUTH!!

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
BLATHERING  
ABOUT?!



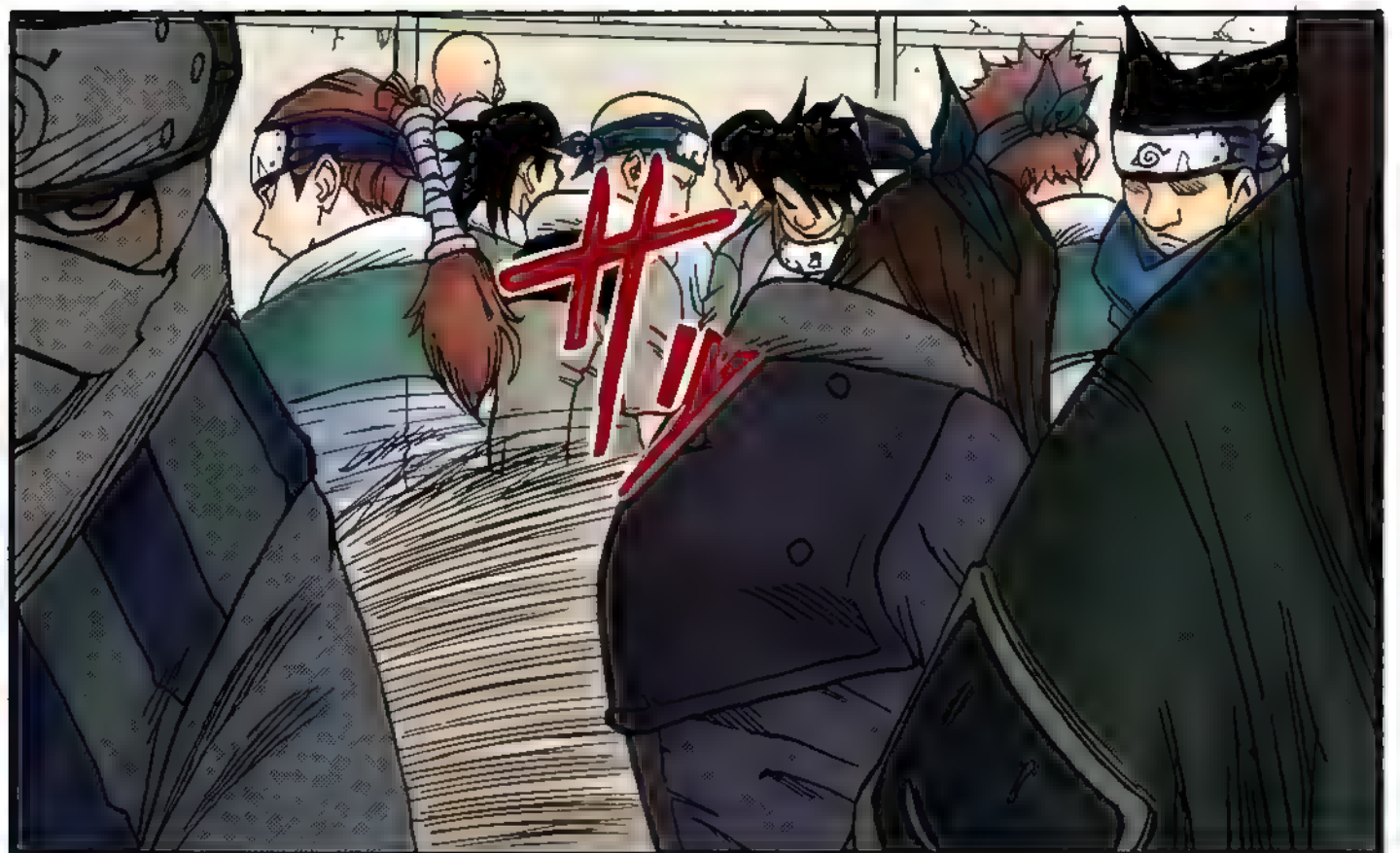
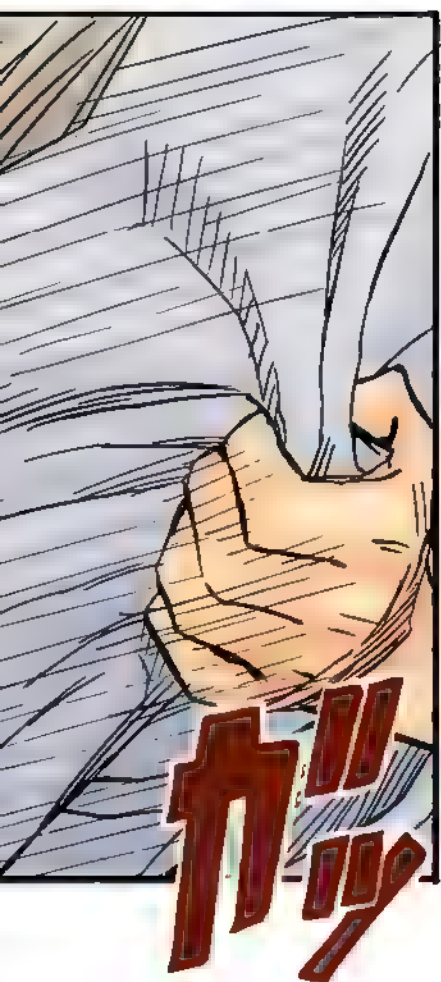
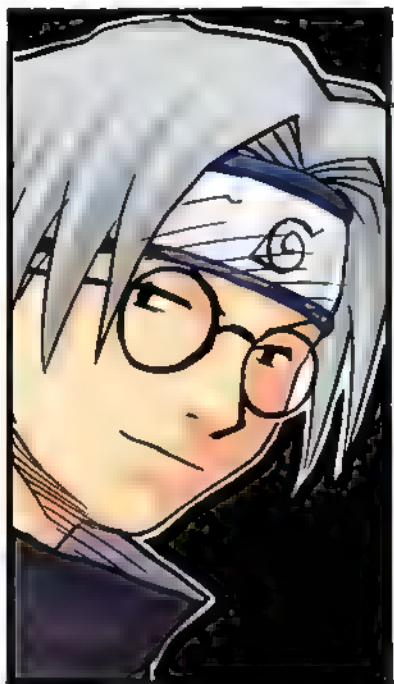
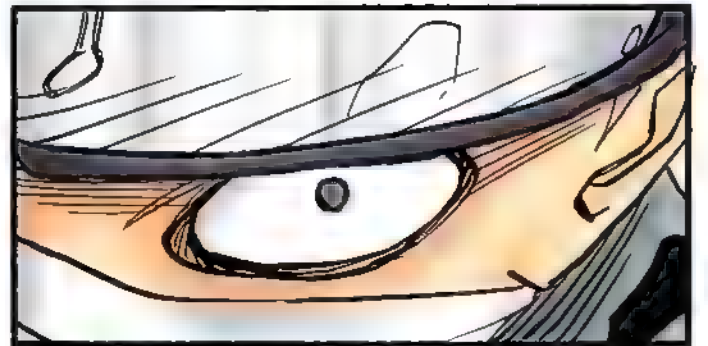
SHALL  
WE?



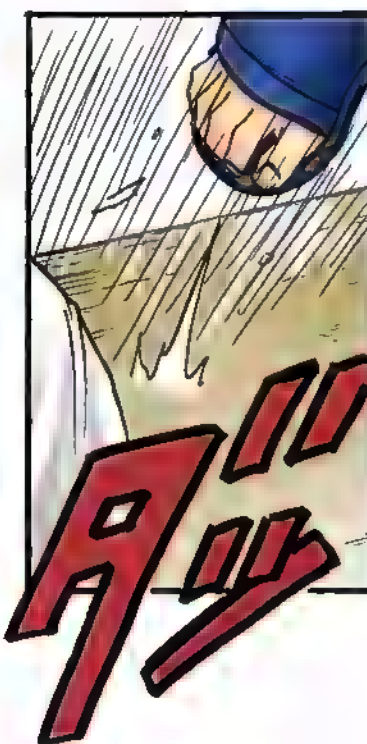
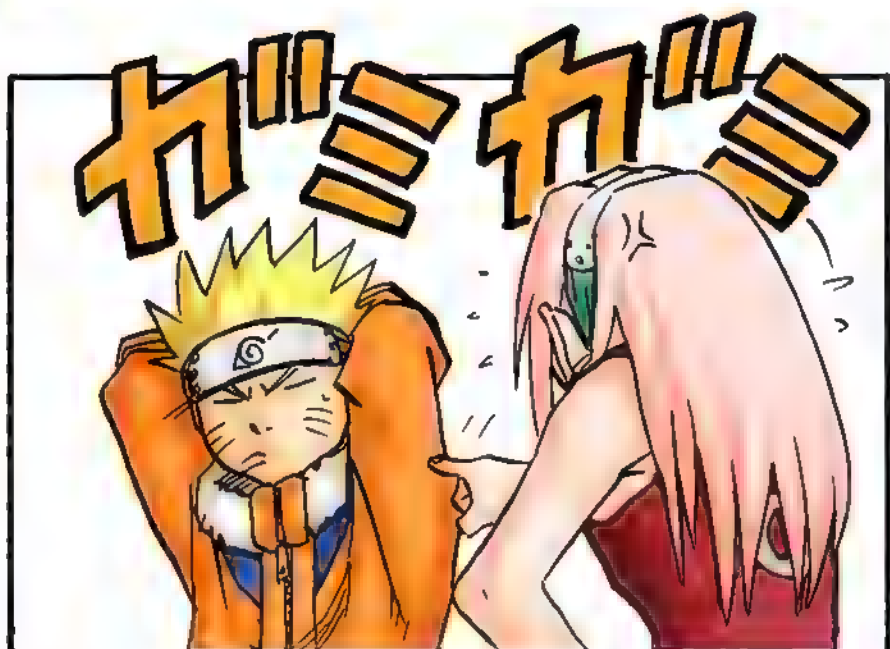
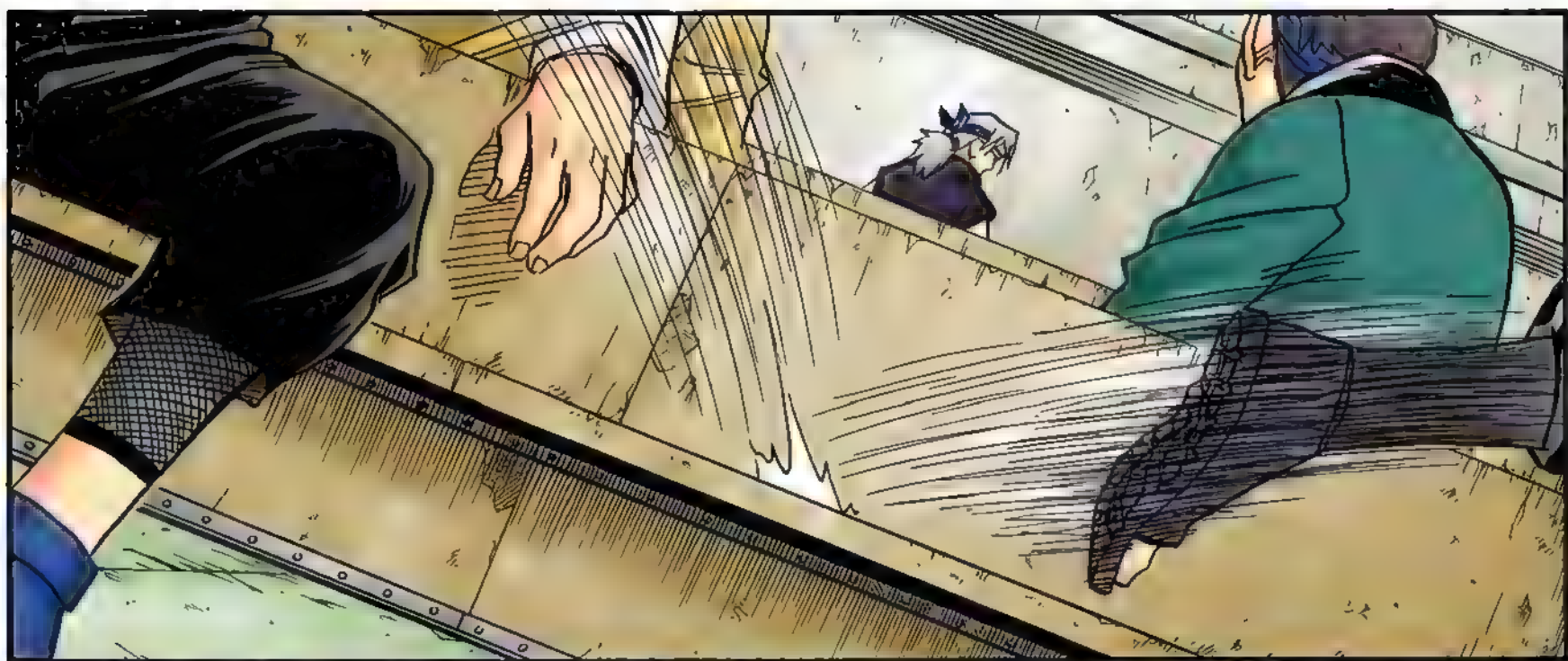
HE'S...  
YOU  
KNOW...  
A SPECIAL-ED  
NINJA...

PAY  
NO  
ATTENTION  
TO  
MY  
FRIEND...

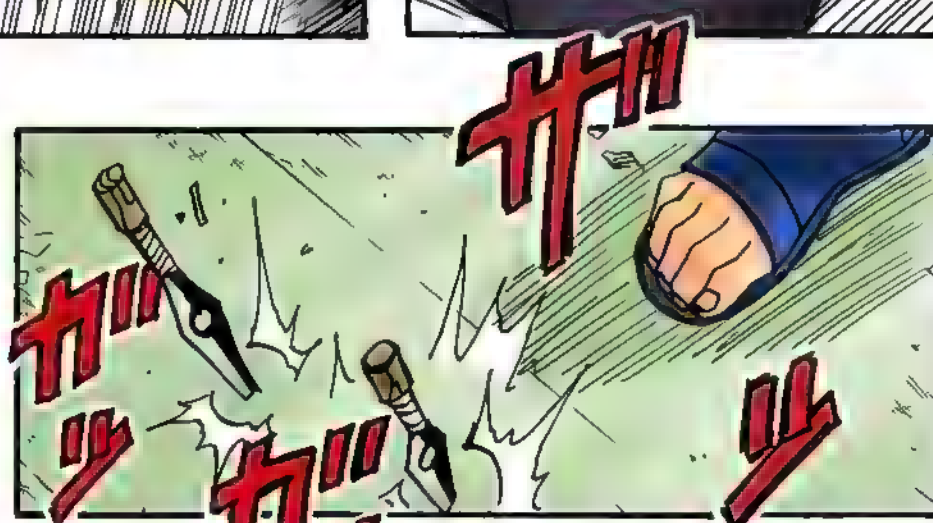
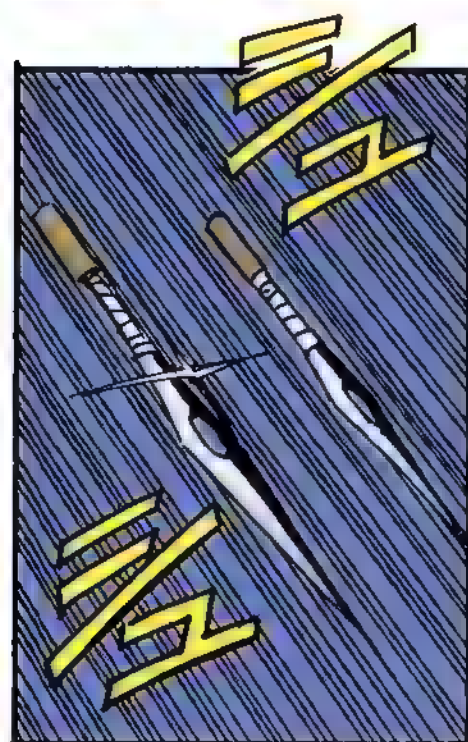




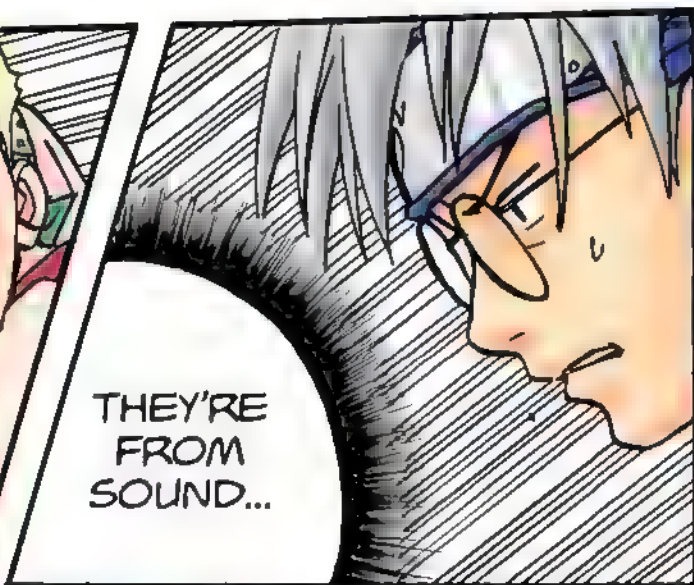
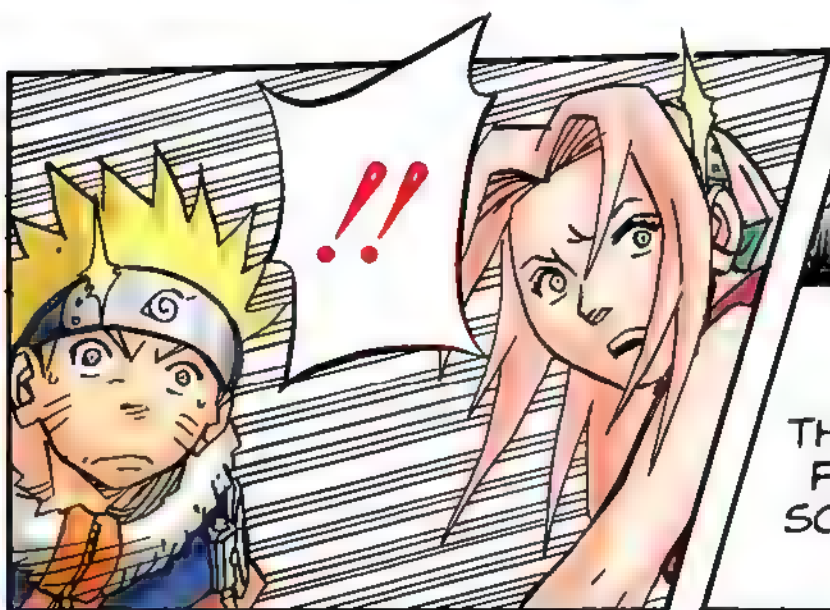
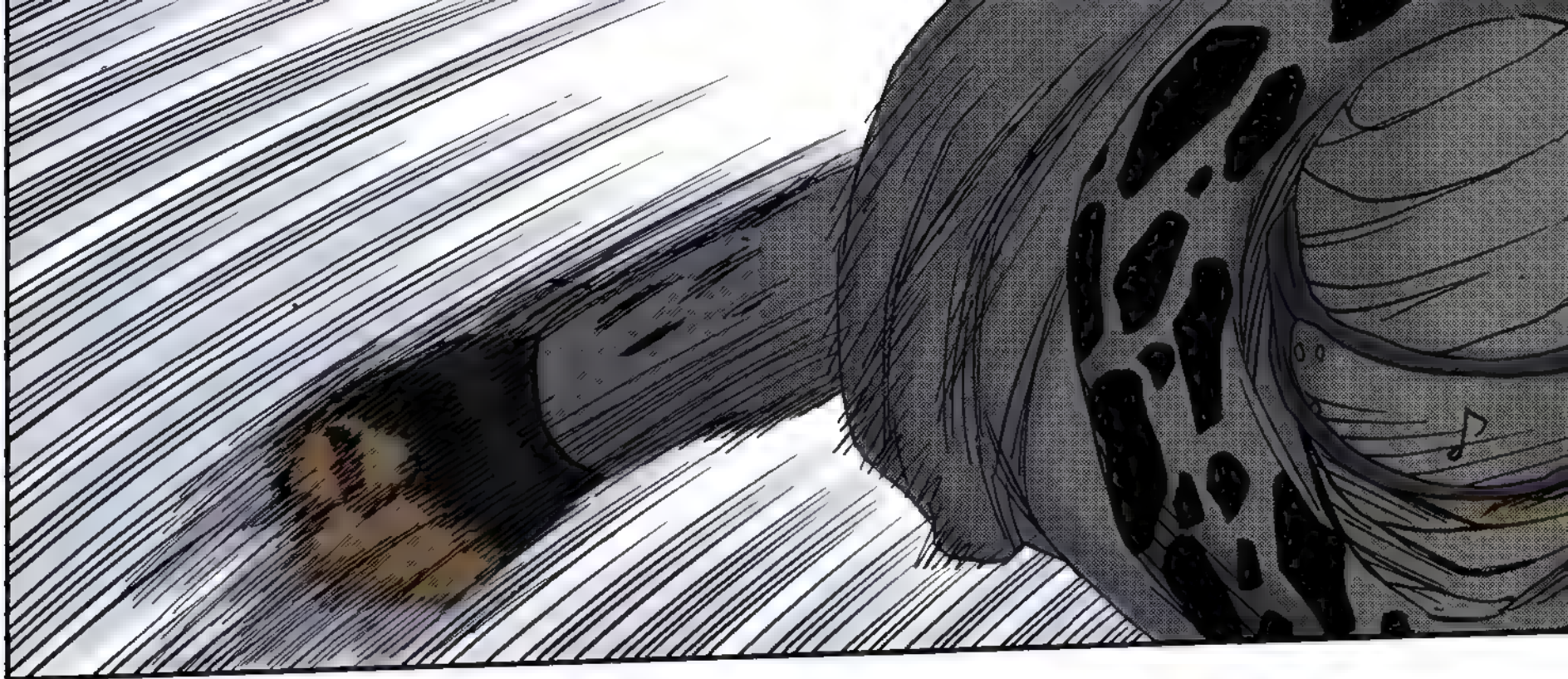




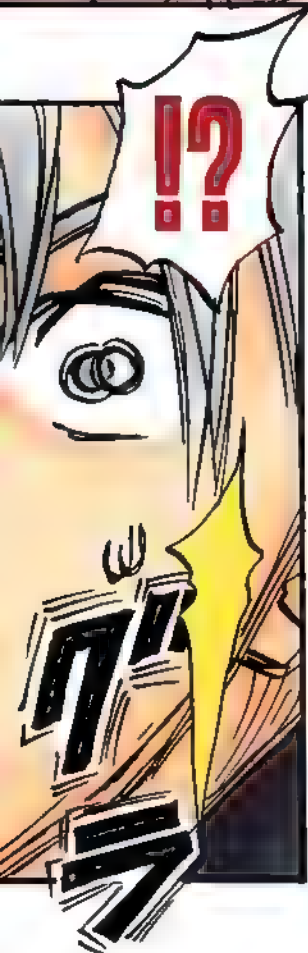
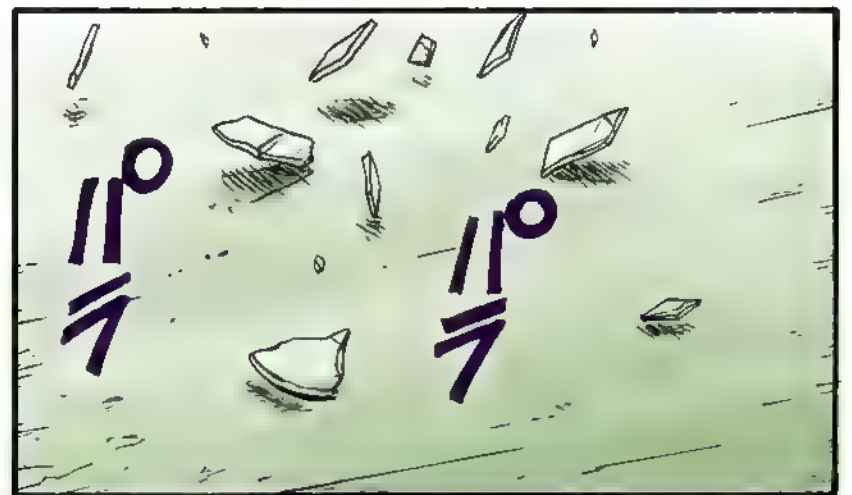
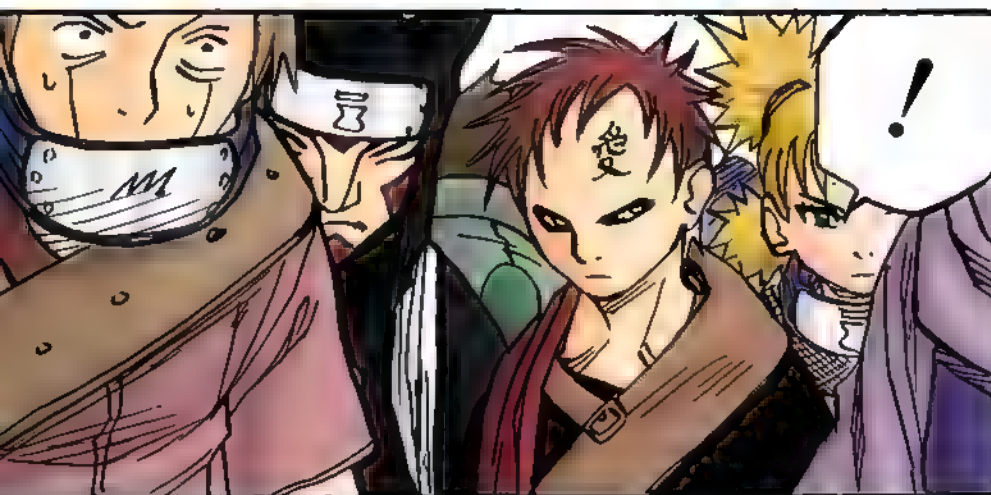
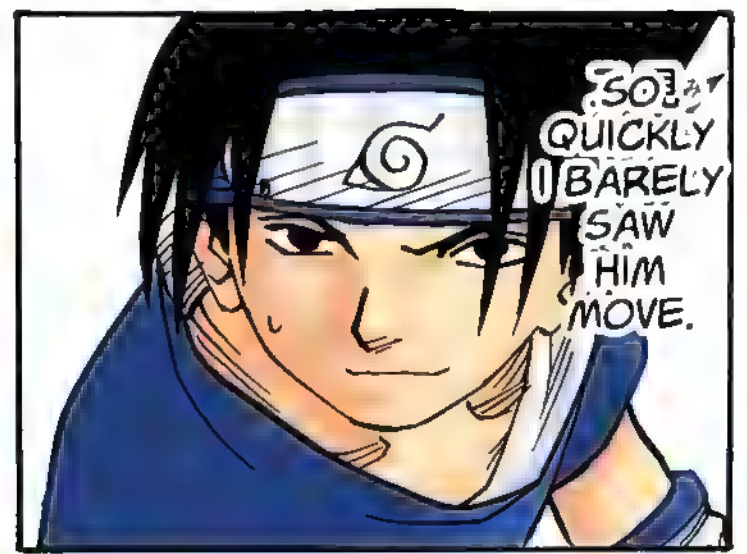
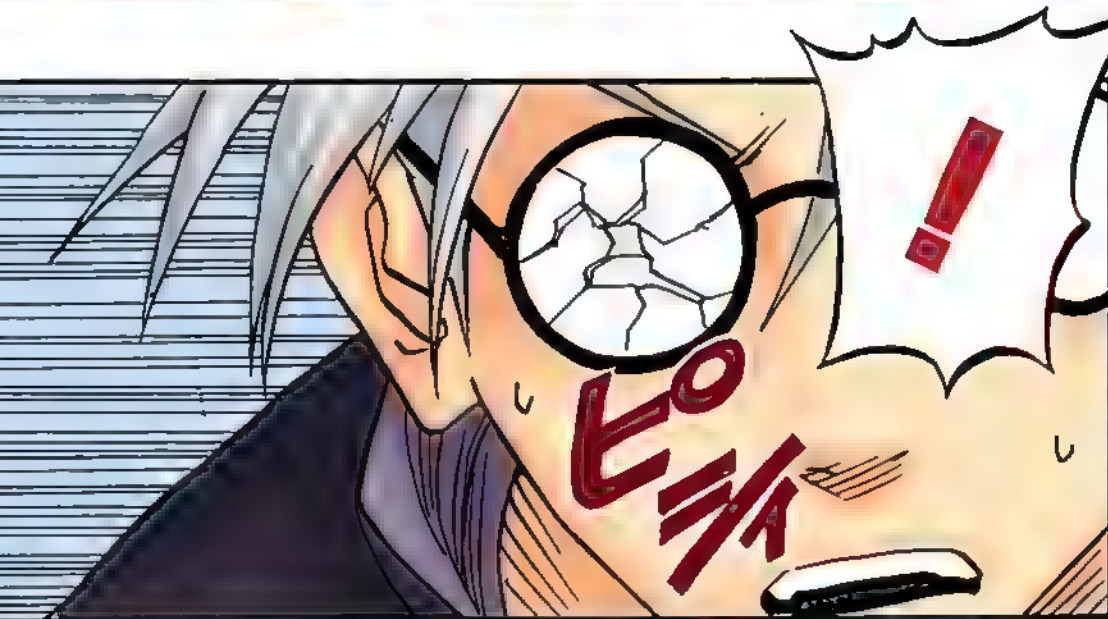
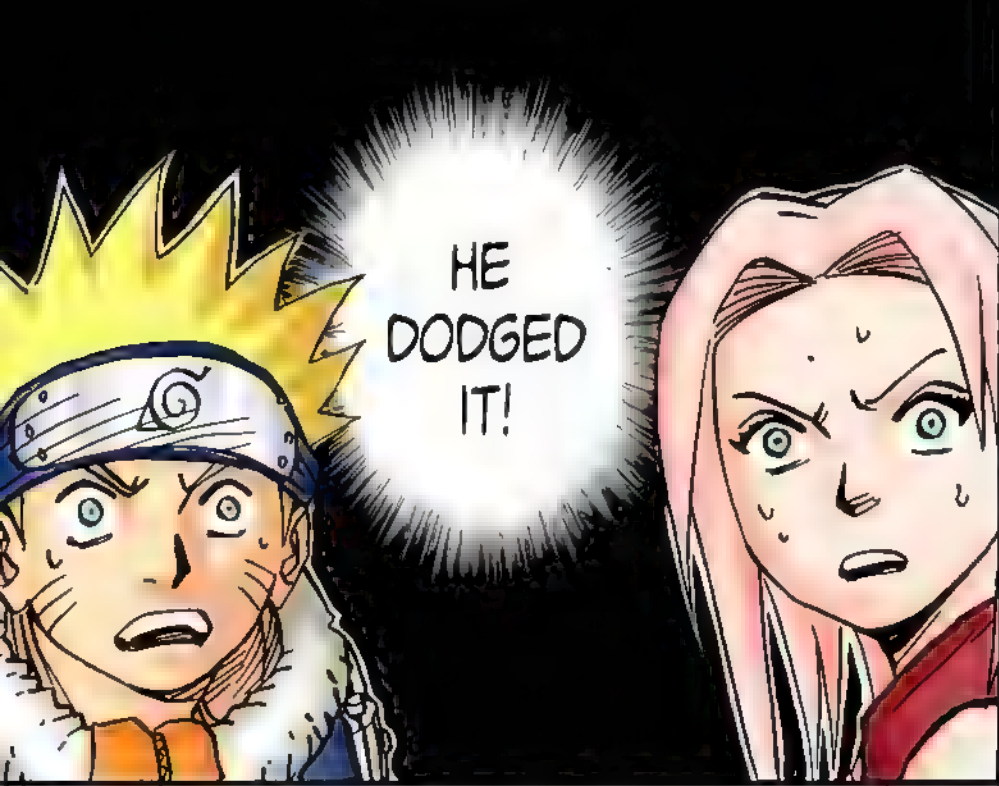




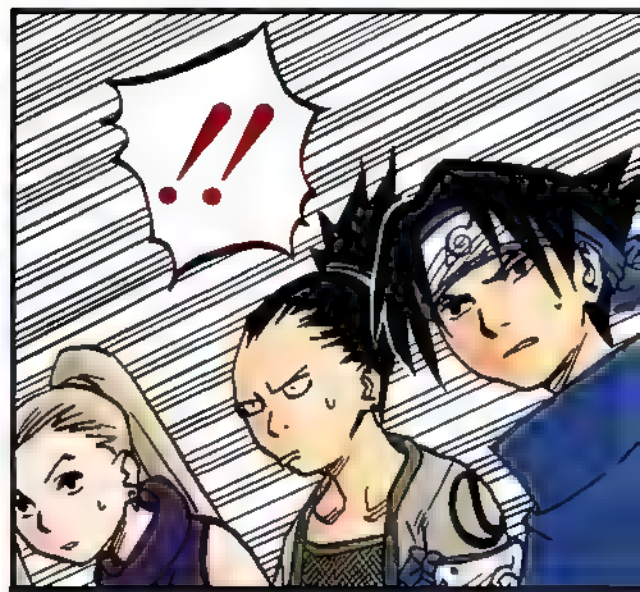
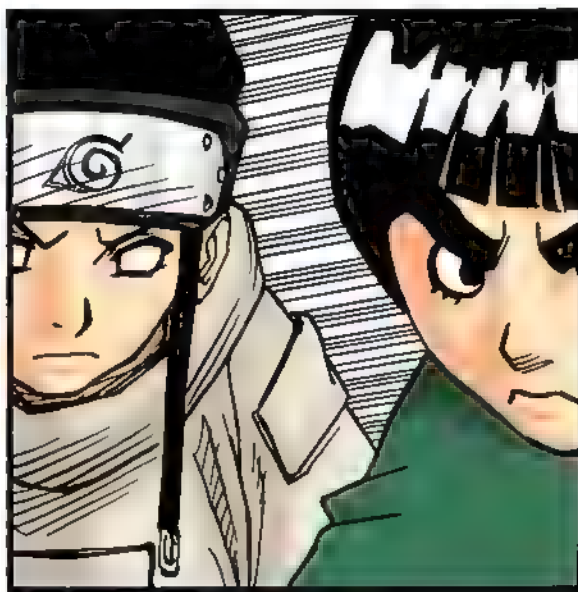
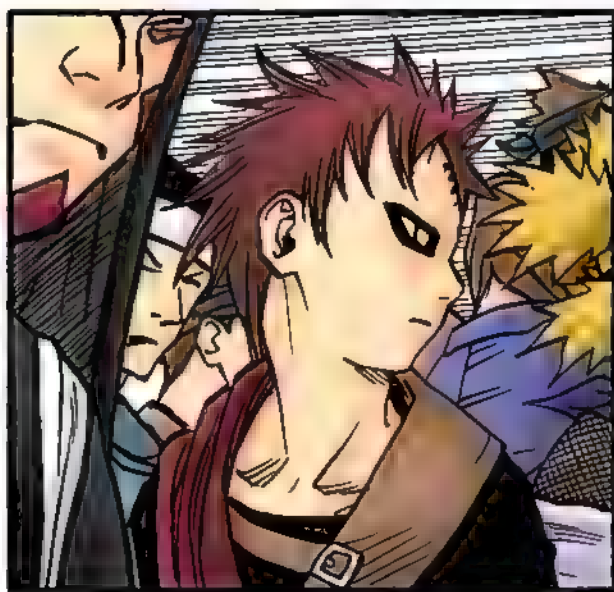








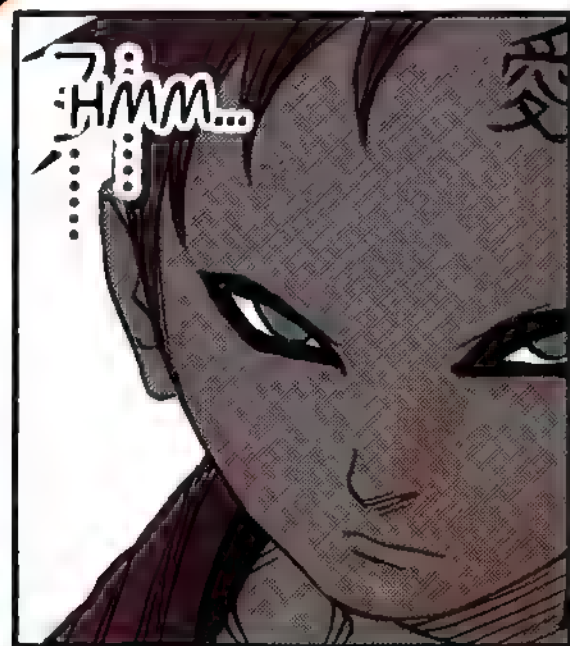
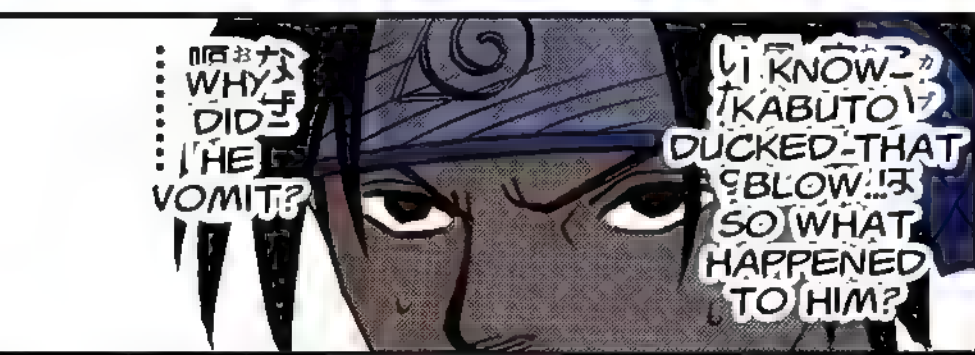




NOTE: ABUMI'S SHIRT SAYS "DEATH."



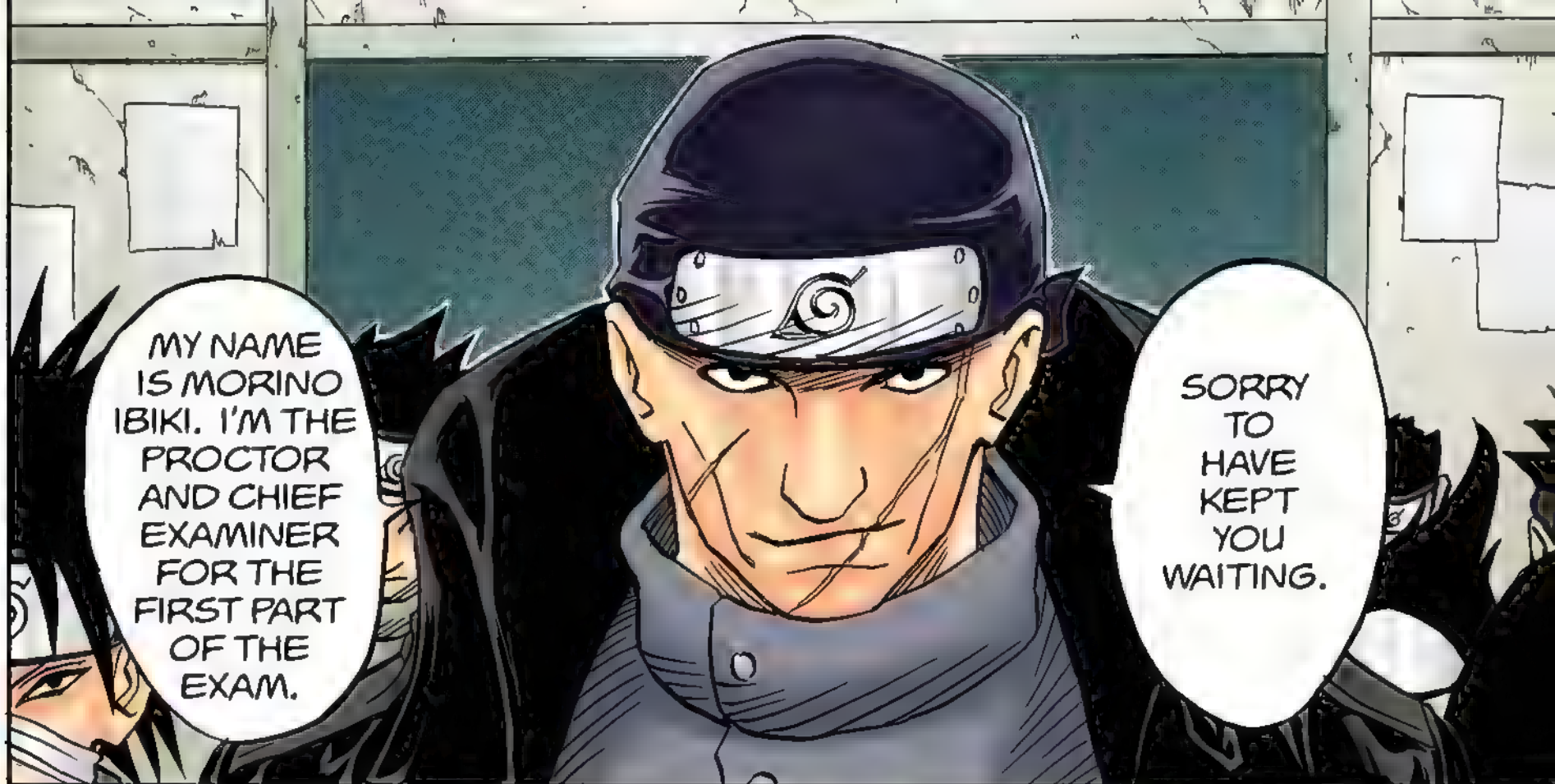






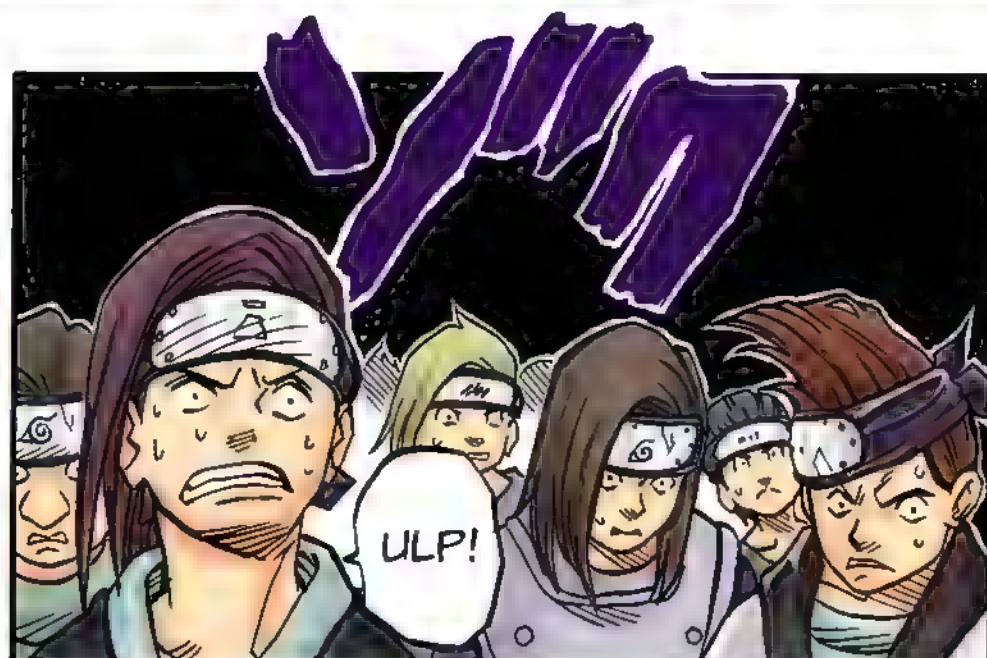




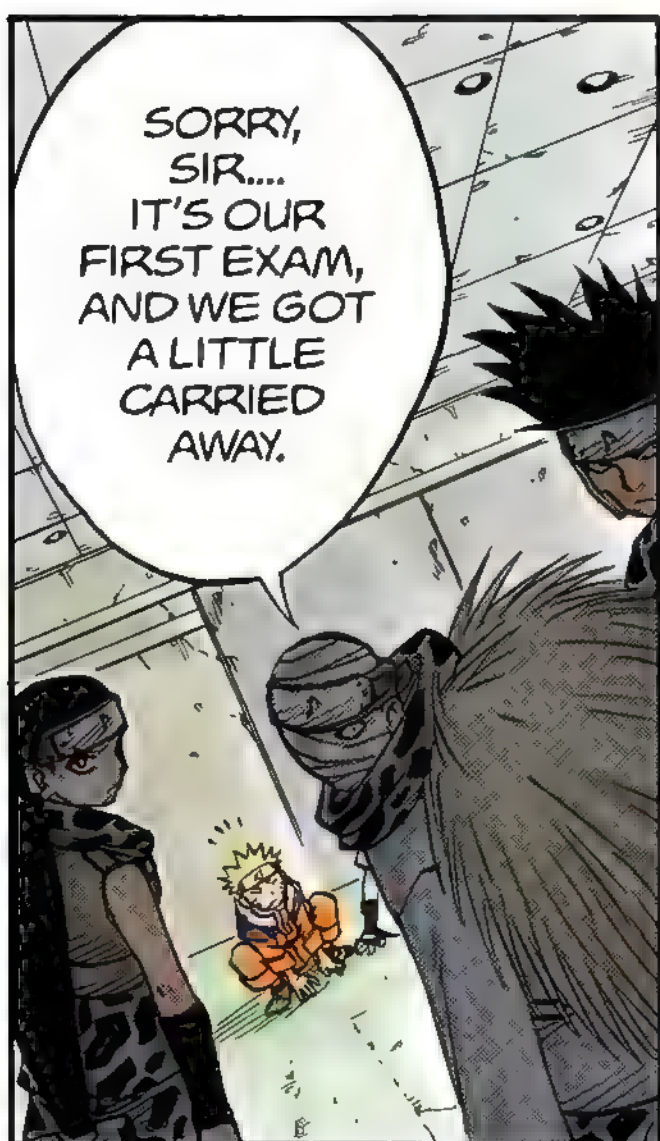


MY NAME IS MORINO IBIKI. I'M THE PROCTOR AND CHIEF EXAMINER FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE EXAM.

SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.



ULP!



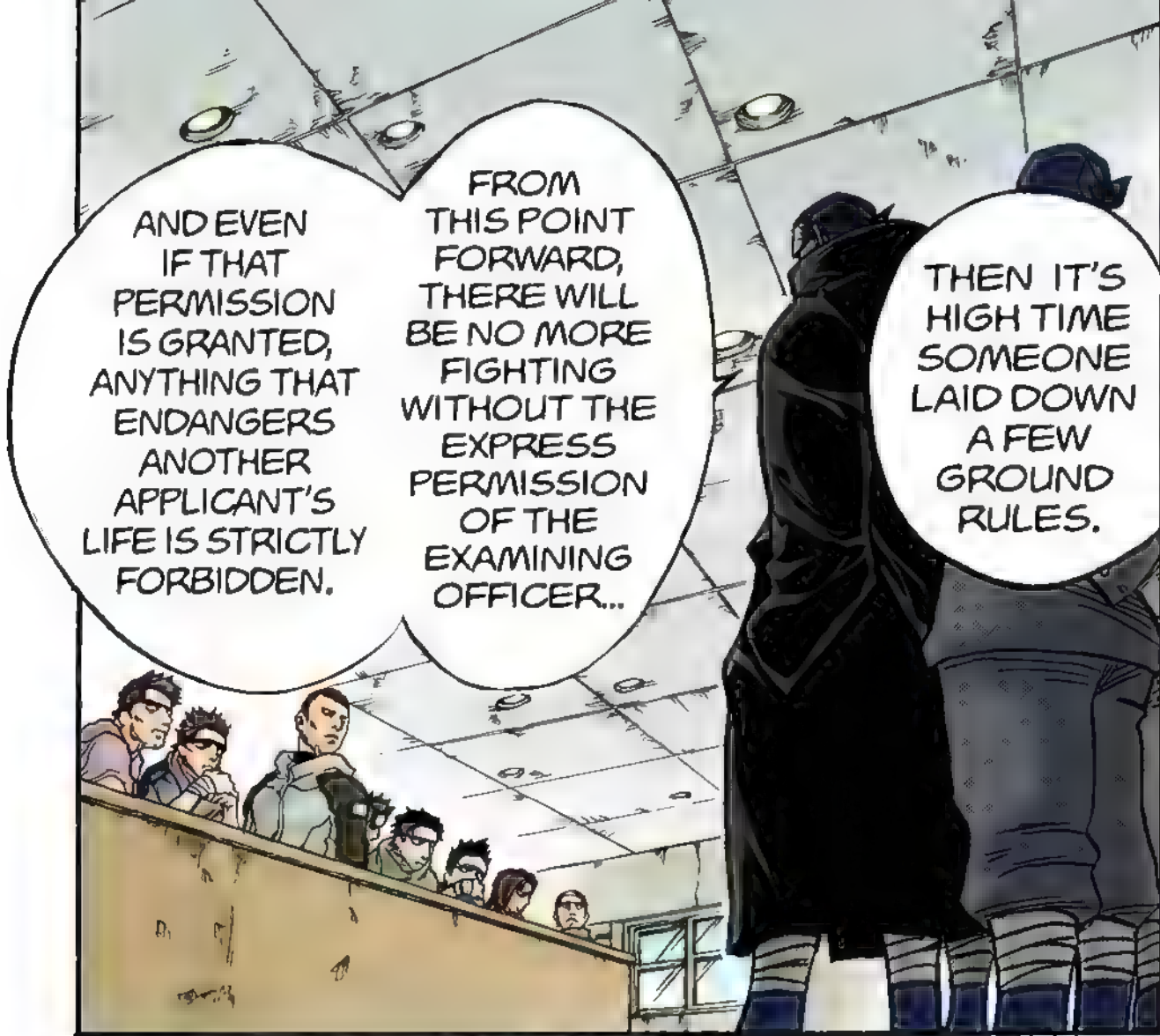
SORRY, SIR.... IT'S OUR FIRST EXAM, AND WE GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.



...OR DO YOU WANT TO BE DISQUALIFIED?

YOU... THE KIDS FROM HIDING-IN-SOUND! YOU CAN'T CARRY ON ANY WAY YOU PLEASE WHEN THE EXAM'S ABOUT TO START!





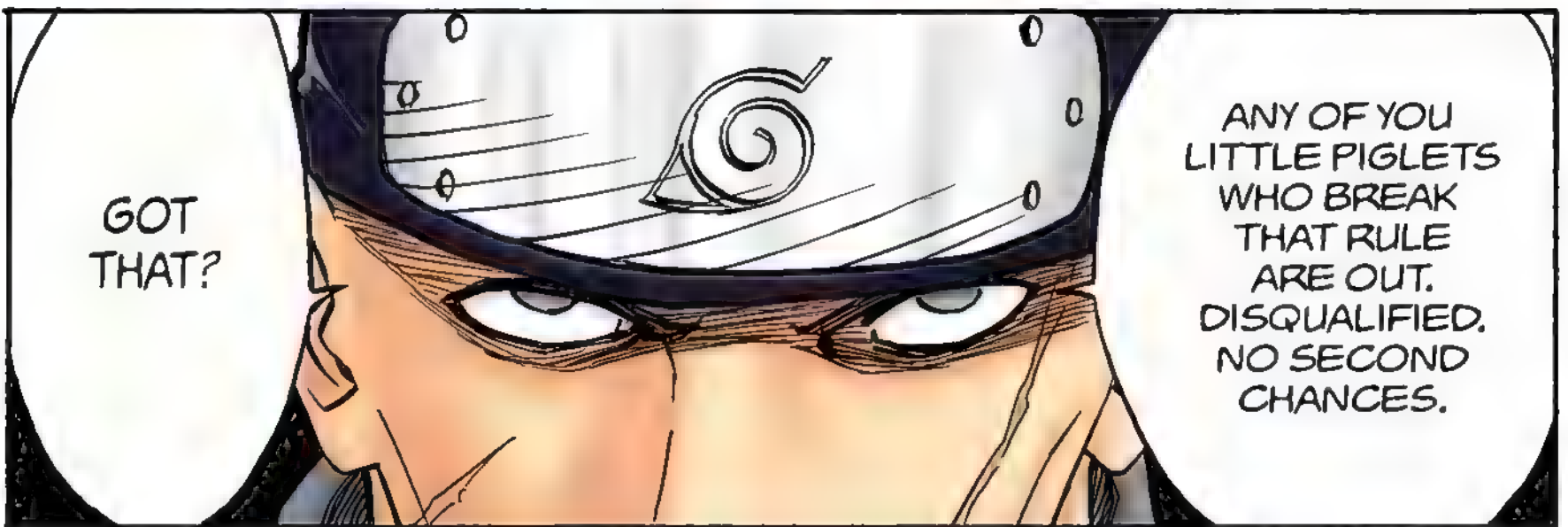
AND EVEN IF THAT PERMISSION IS GRANTED, ANYTHING THAT ENDANGERS ANOTHER APPLICANT'S LIFE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, THERE WILL BE NO MORE FIGHTING WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE EXAMINING OFFICER...

THEN IT'S HIGH TIME SOMEONE LAID DOWN A FEW GROUND RULES.

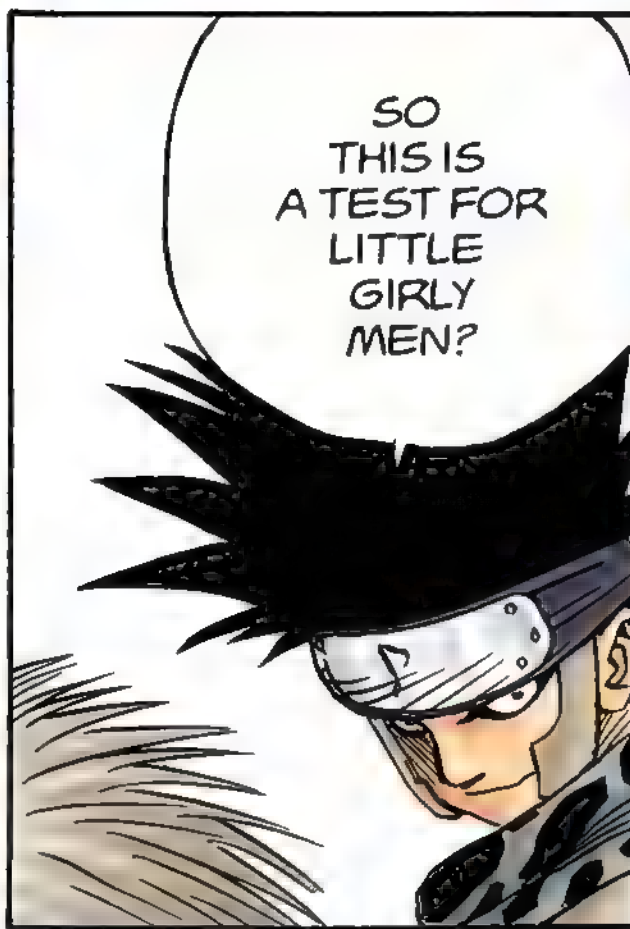


IS THAT SO?

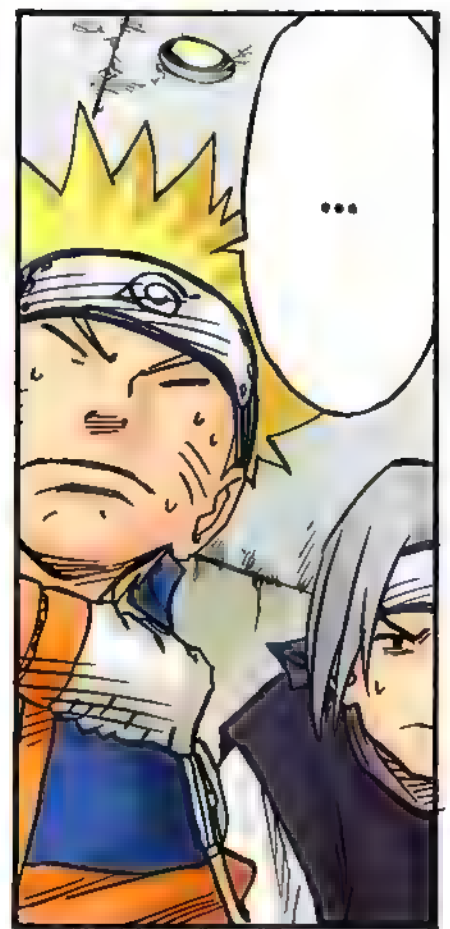


GOT THAT?

ANY OF YOU LITTLE PIGLETS WHO BREAK THAT RULE ARE OUT. DISQUALIFIED. NO SECOND CHANCES.

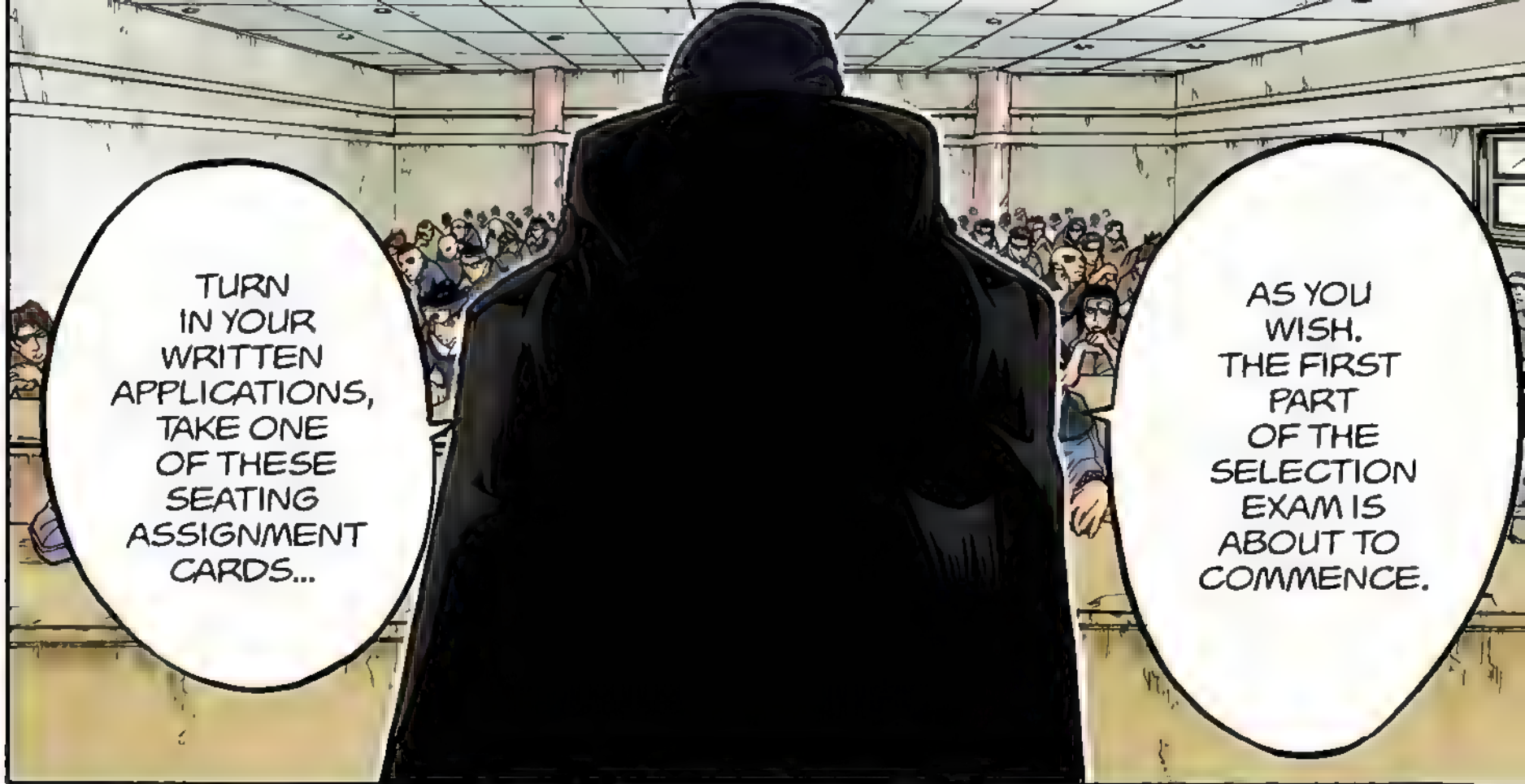


SO THIS IS A TEST FOR LITTLE GIRLY MEN?



...





TURN  
IN YOUR  
WRITTEN  
APPLICATIONS,  
TAKE ONE  
OF THESE  
SEATING  
ASSIGNMENT  
CARDS...

AS YOU  
WISH.  
THE FIRST  
PART  
OF THE  
SELECTION  
EXAM IS  
ABOUT TO  
COMMENCE.

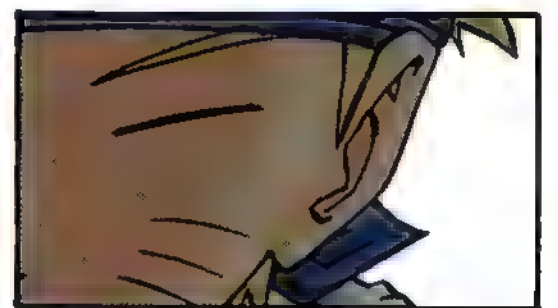
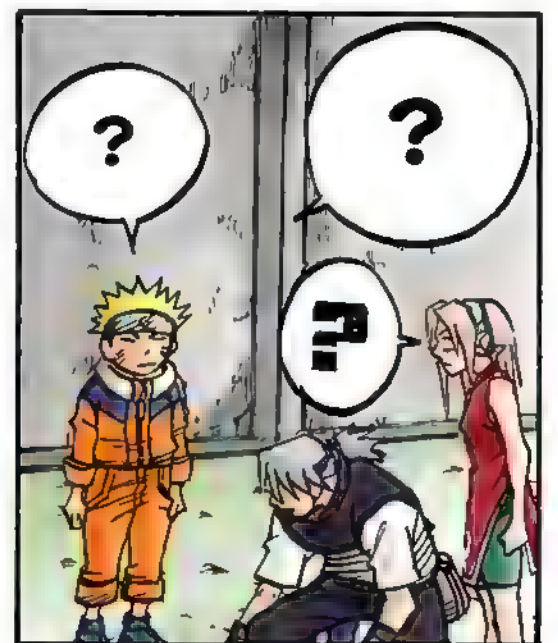


WHEN  
EVERYONE'S  
SEATED,  
WE'LL PASS  
OUT THE  
WRITTEN  
PART OF  
THE TEST.

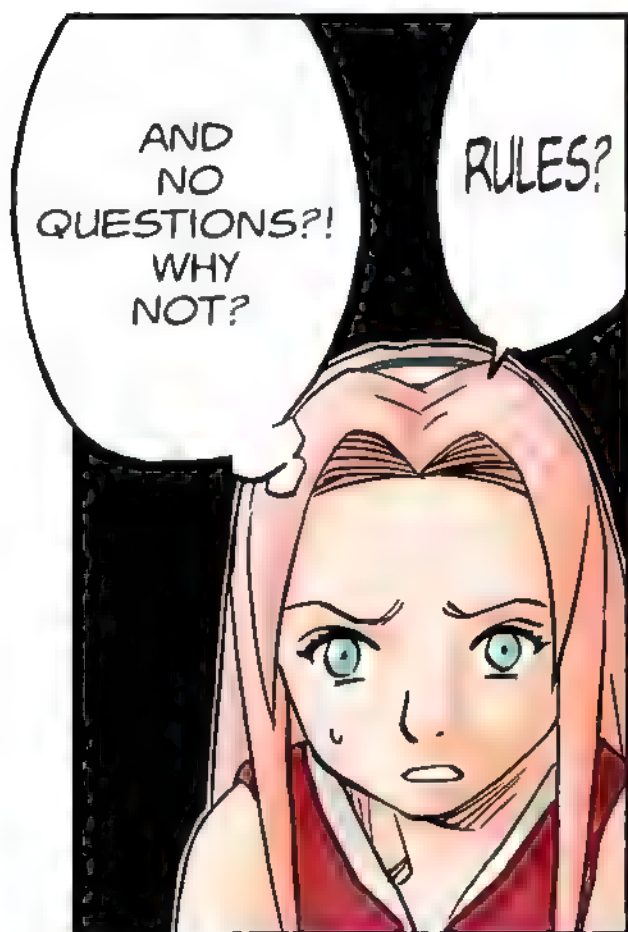
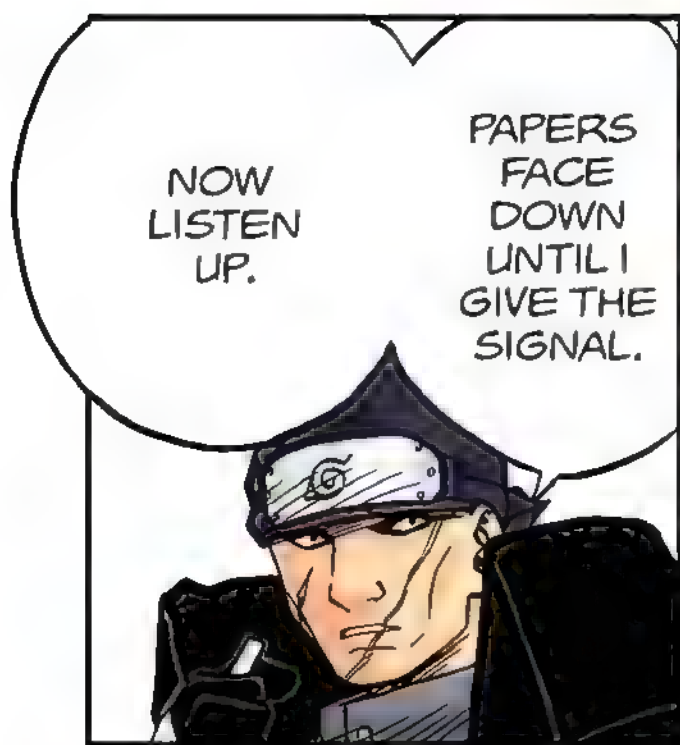
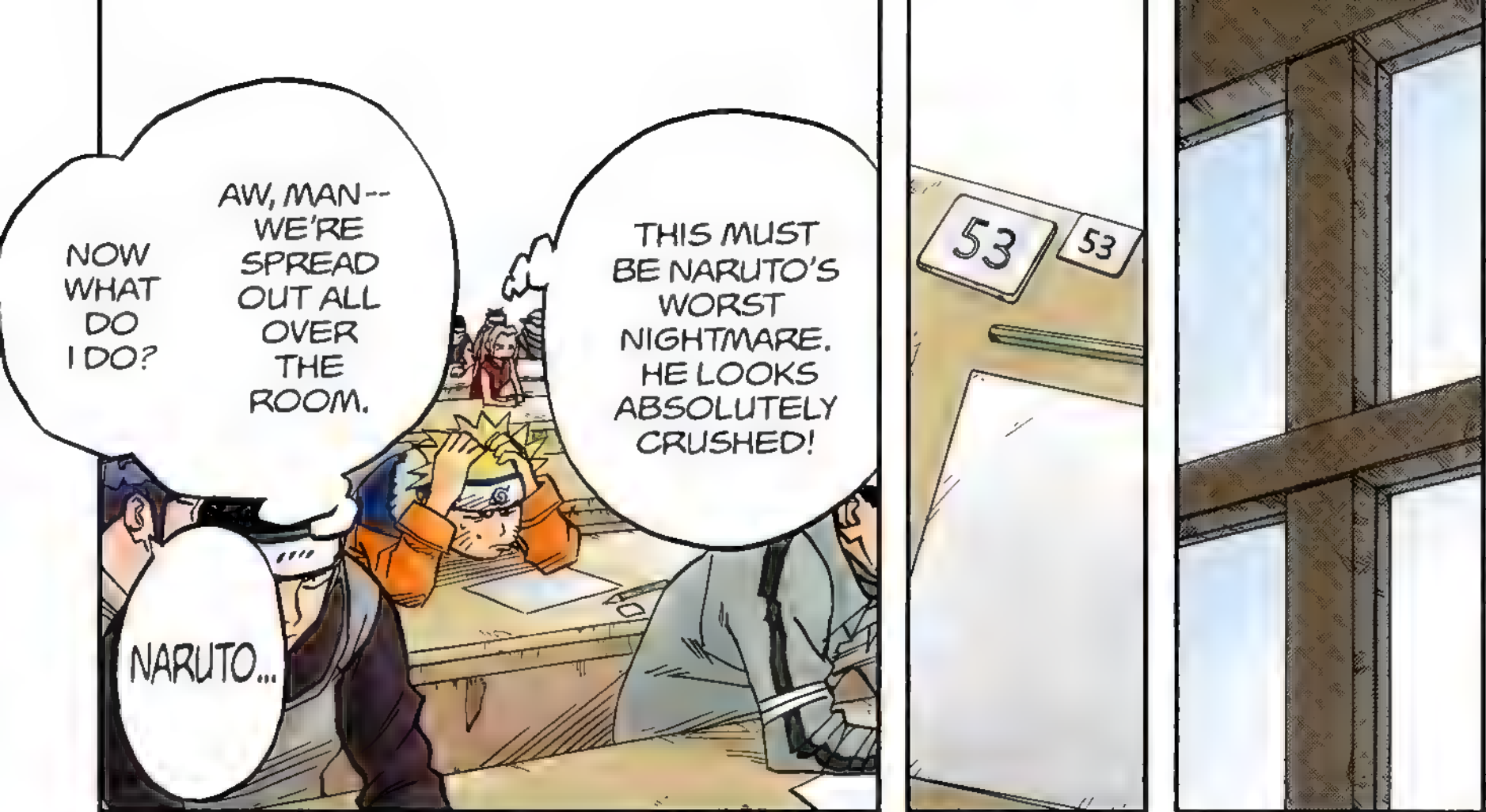
... AND  
REPORT  
DIRECTLY  
TO THE  
SEAT  
INDICATED.



A-  
A  
PAPER  
TEST?!







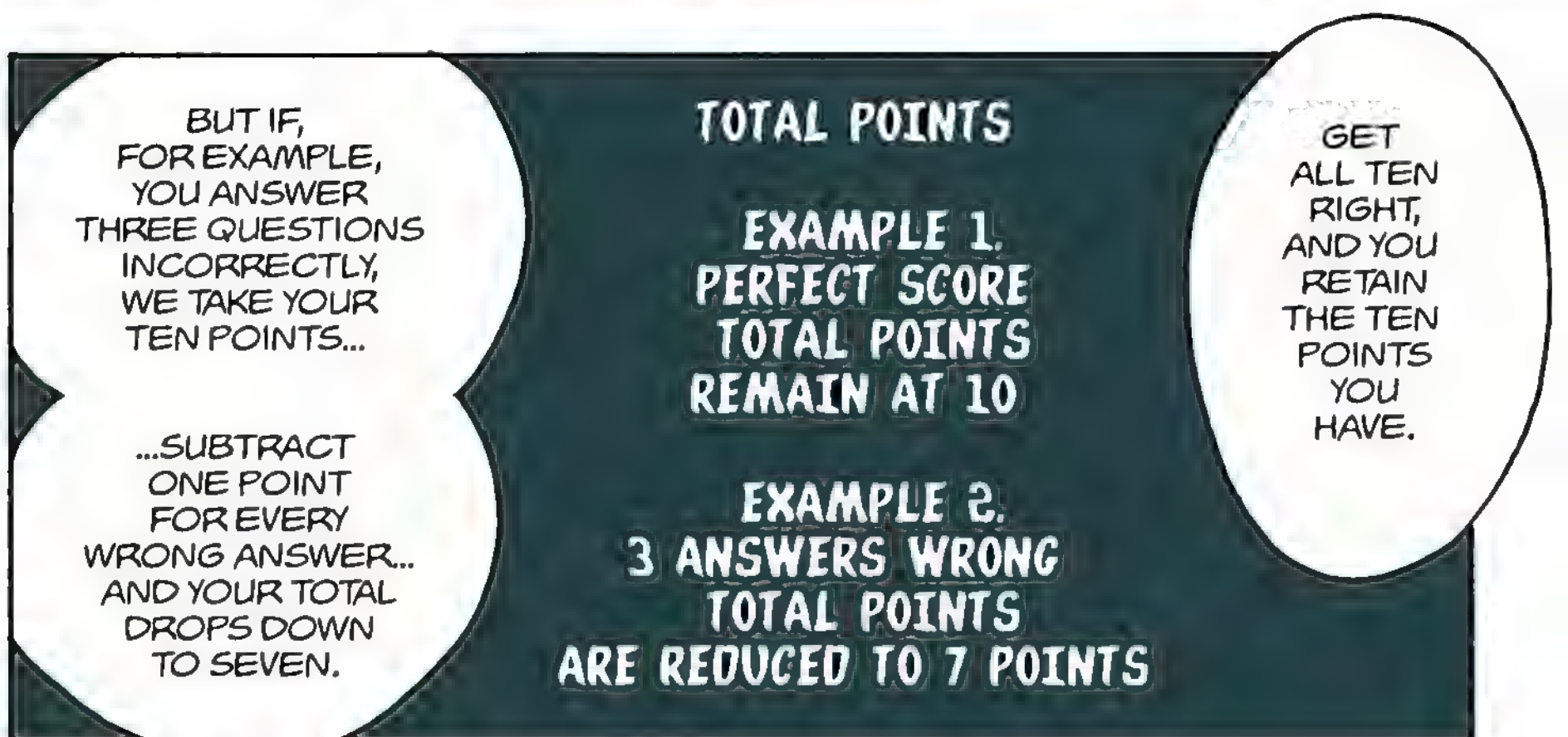




THE TEST  
HAS TEN  
QUESTIONS,  
EACH WORTH  
ONE POINT.

FOR EACH  
QUESTION  
YOU GET  
WRONG, WE  
SUBTRACT A  
POINT FROM  
YOU.

RULE  
NUMBER  
ONE!  
EACH ONE  
OF  
YOU STARTS  
OUT  
HERE  
WITH  
TEN POINTS.



BUT IF,  
FOR EXAMPLE,  
YOU ANSWER  
THREE QUESTIONS  
INCORRECTLY,  
WE TAKE YOUR  
TEN POINTS...

...SUBTRACT  
ONE POINT  
FOR EVERY  
WRONG ANSWER...  
AND YOUR TOTAL  
DROPS DOWN  
TO SEVEN.

**TOTAL POINTS**

**EXAMPLE 1.  
PERFECT SCORE  
TOTAL POINTS  
REMAIN AT 10**

**EXAMPLE 2.  
3 ANSWERS WRONG  
TOTAL POINTS  
ARE REDUCED TO 7 POINTS**

GET  
ALL TEN  
RIGHT,  
AND YOU  
RETAIN  
THE TEN  
POINTS  
YOU  
HAVE.



PASSING OR  
FAILING WILL  
BE DETERMINED  
BY THE SUM  
OF THE POINTS  
HELD BY ALL  
THREE MEMBERS  
OF EACH  
CELL.

RULE  
NUMBER 2...  
THIS  
WRITTEN  
TEST IS  
STILL  
A TEAM  
EVENT.



IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
IF I GET  
ALL TEN  
QUESTIONS  
WRONG,  
I'LL END UP  
WITH NO  
POINTS  
AT ALL!



THE WHOLE  
CONCEPT  
OF THE STARTING  
POINTS AND THE  
DEDUCTIONS IS HARD  
ENOUGH TO FOLLOW...  
BUT WHAT IS THIS  
"TEAM TOTAL"  
YOU'RE TALKING  
ABOUT?

W-WAIT  
A  
SECOND!

カッ

THE  
OBJECT  
IS FOR EACH  
TEAM TO HAVE  
AS FEW  
DEDUCTIONS  
AS POSSIBLE  
FROM ITS  
JOINT  
THIRTY-POINT  
TOTAL.

カッ

WHAT  
REASONS...?

THIS  
NEXT  
BIT  
IS  
CRUCIAL.

SHUT  
UP AND  
LISTEN.  
YOU  
MIGHT  
LEARN  
SOMETHING.

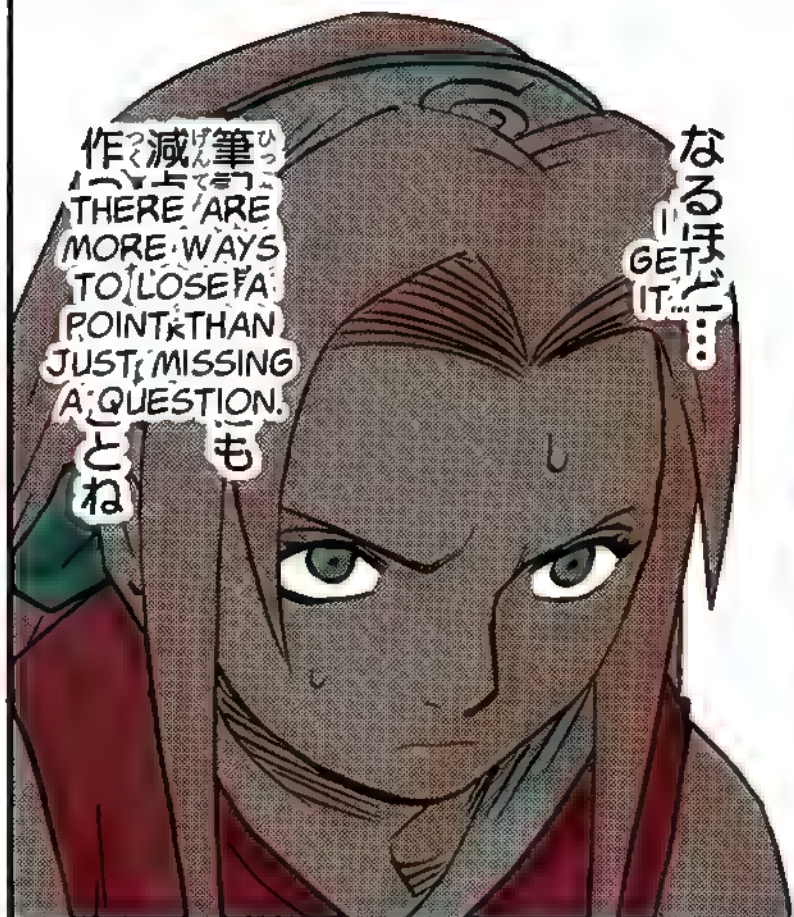
DID  
YOU NOT  
HEAR THE  
PART  
ABOUT "NO  
QUESTIONS"?  
WE HAVE  
OUR  
REASONS.

...WE  
SUBTRACT  
TWO  
POINTS  
FROM  
EACH  
MEMBER  
OF THE  
CHEATER'S  
TEAM.

...IN OTHER  
WORDS,  
ANYTHING  
THAT LEADS  
THE PROCTORS  
TO DETERMINE  
THAT HE OR  
SHE HAS  
CHEATED...

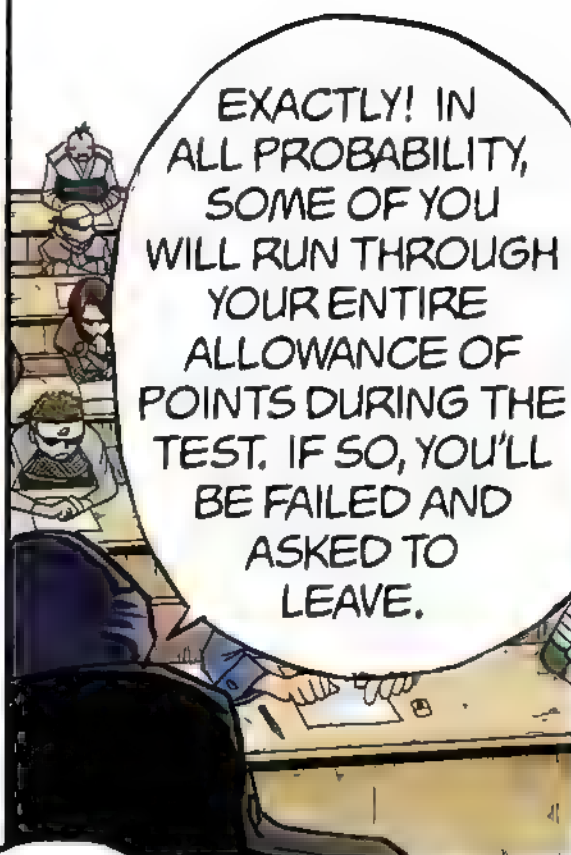
RULE  
NUMBER 3:  
IF, DURING  
THE COURSE  
OF THE  
EXAM, A  
CANDIDATE  
DOES  
ANYTHING  
OUT OF THE  
ORDINARY...



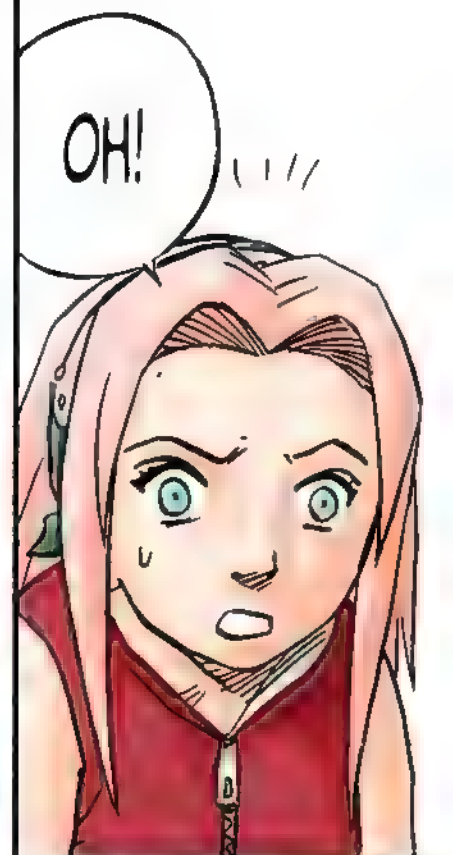


作<sup>つく</sup>減<sup>げ</sup>筆<sup>ひつ</sup>  
一<sup>いっ</sup>へ<sup>へ</sup>と<sup>と</sup>で<sup>で</sup>き<sup>き</sup>  
THERE ARE  
MORE WAYS  
TO LOSE A  
POINT THAN  
JUST MISSING  
A QUESTION.  
と<sup>と</sup>ね<sup>ね</sup> も<sup>も</sup>

なるほど...  
GET IT...



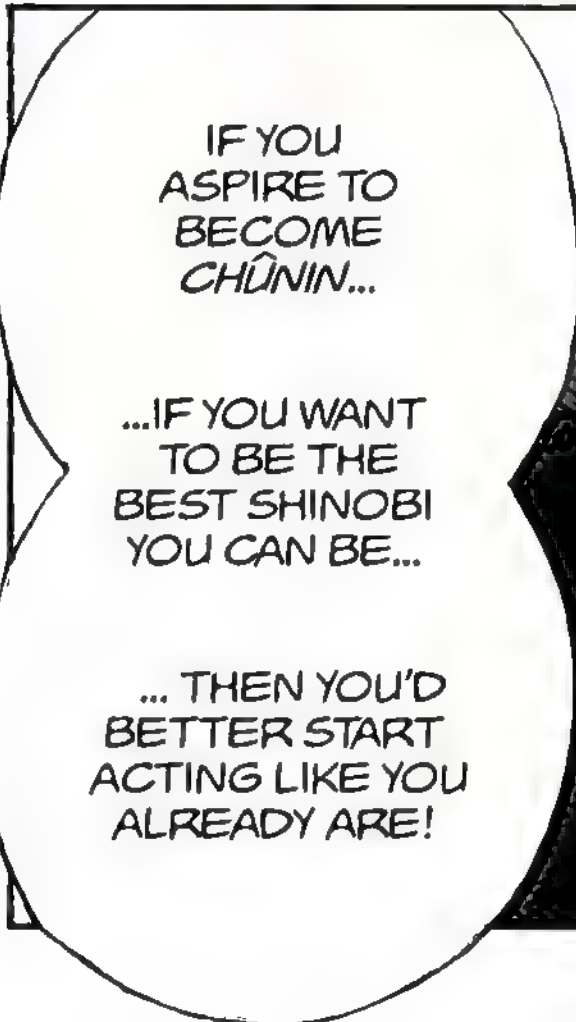
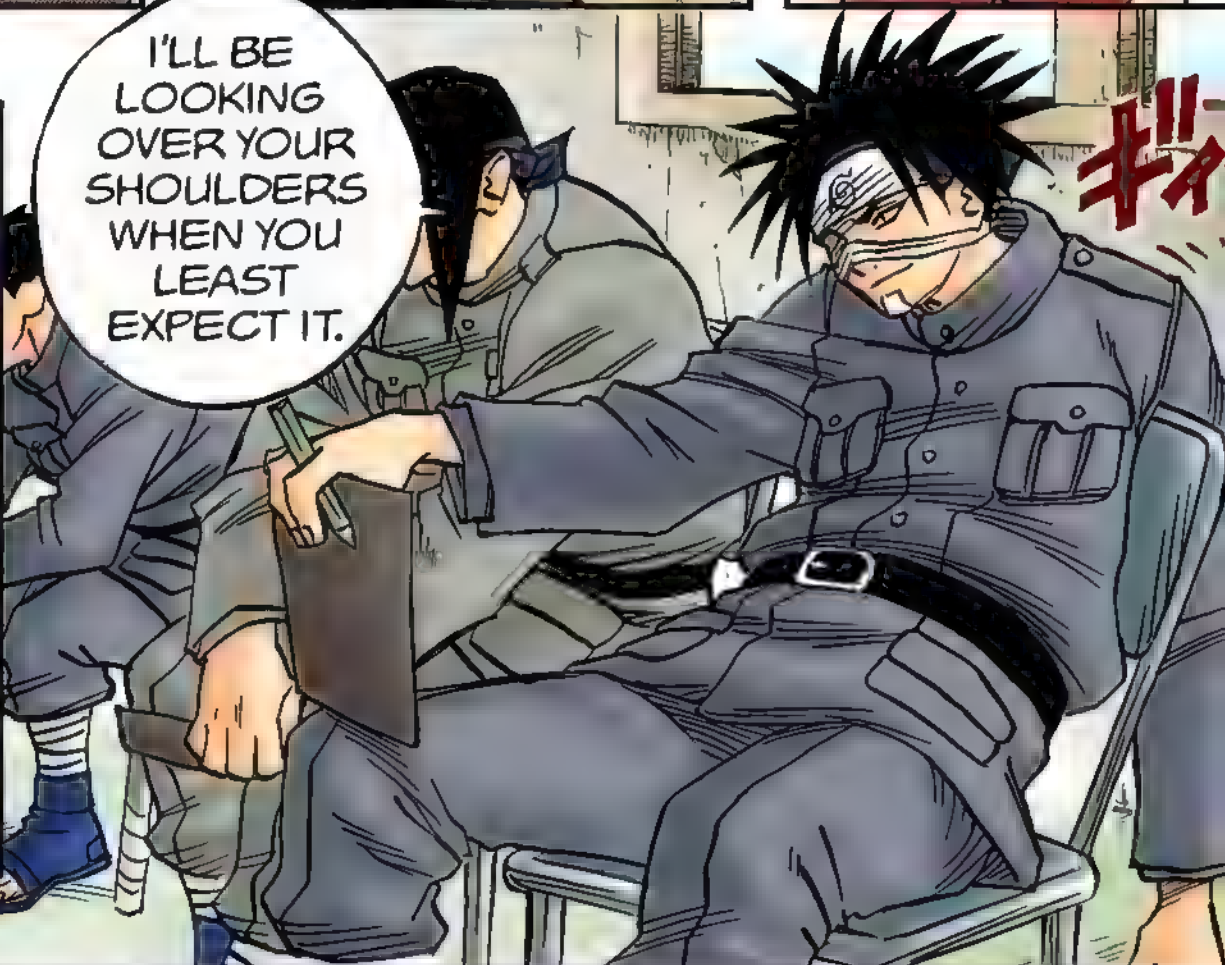
EXACTLY! IN  
ALL PROBABILITY,  
SOME OF YOU  
WILL RUN THROUGH  
YOUR ENTIRE  
ALLOWANCE OF  
POINTS DURING THE  
TEST. IF SO, YOU'LL  
BE FAILED AND  
ASKED TO  
LEAVE.



OH!



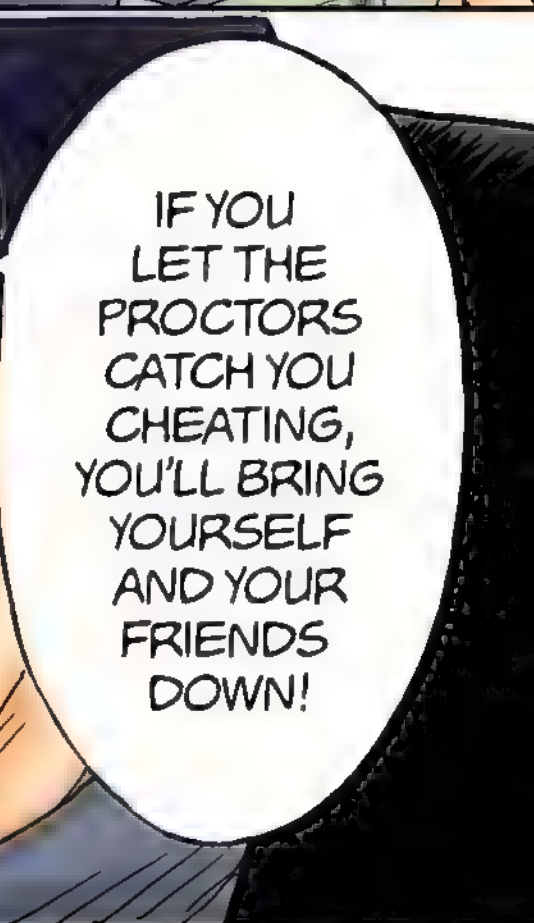
I'LL BE  
LOOKING  
OVER YOUR  
SHOULDERS  
WHEN YOU  
LEAST  
EXPECT IT.



IF YOU  
ASPIRE TO  
BECOME  
CHŪNIN...

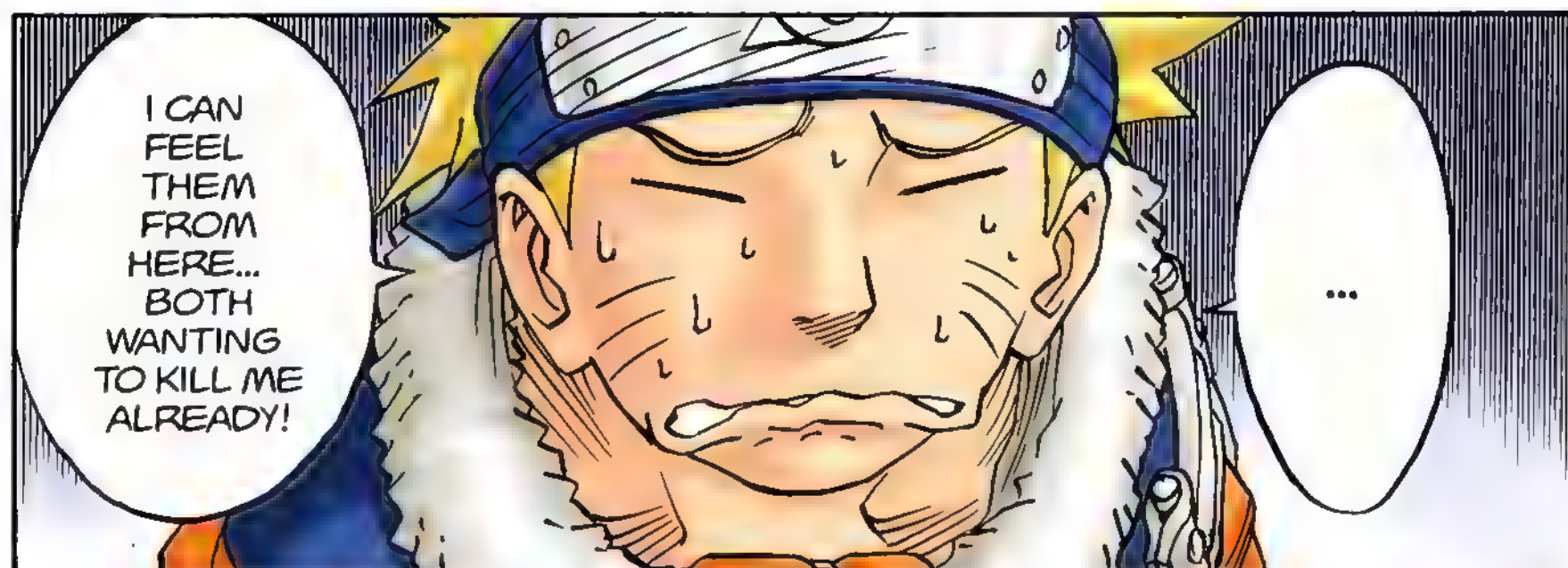
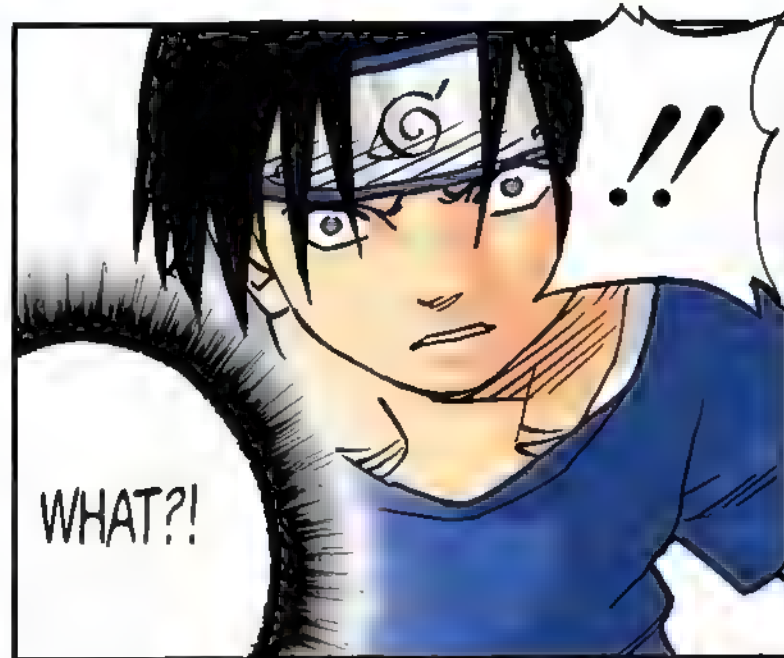
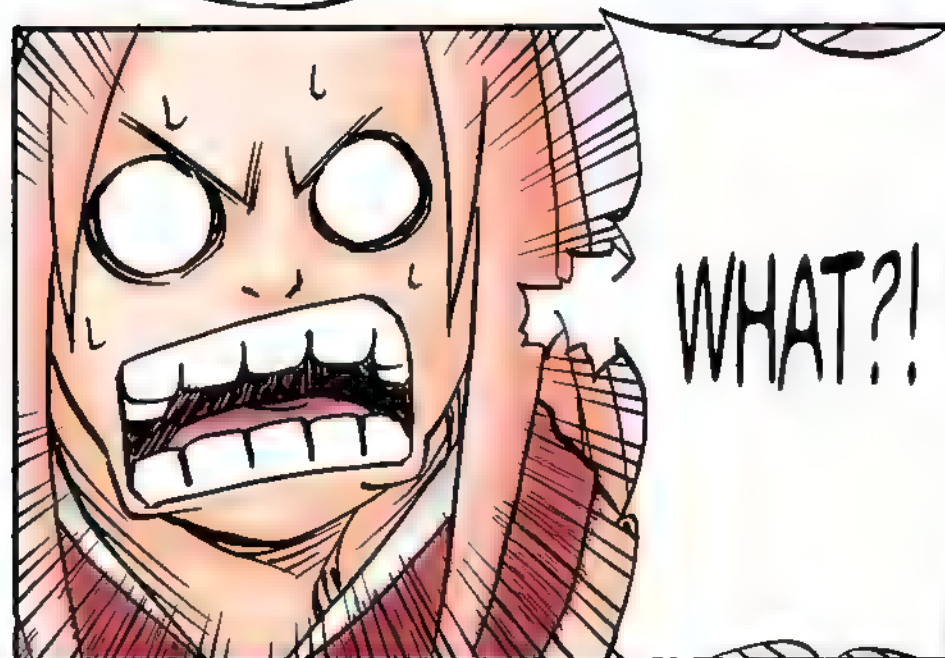
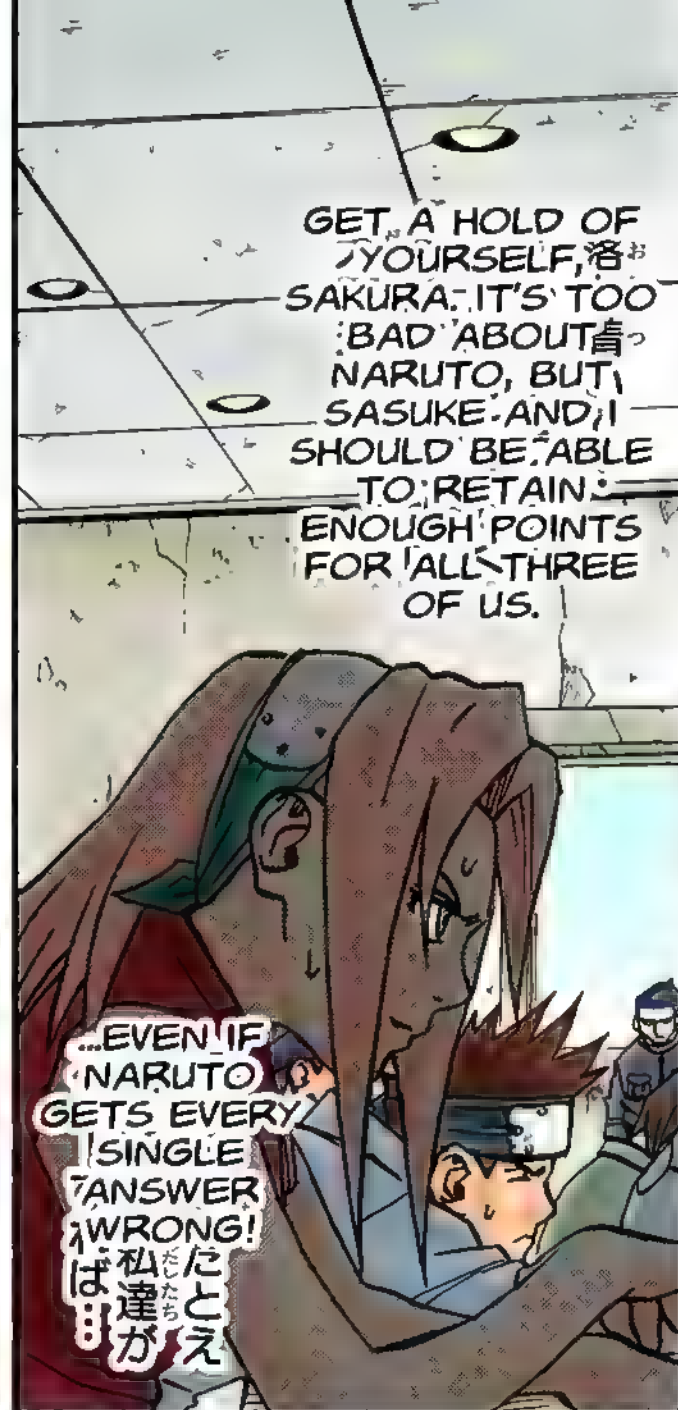
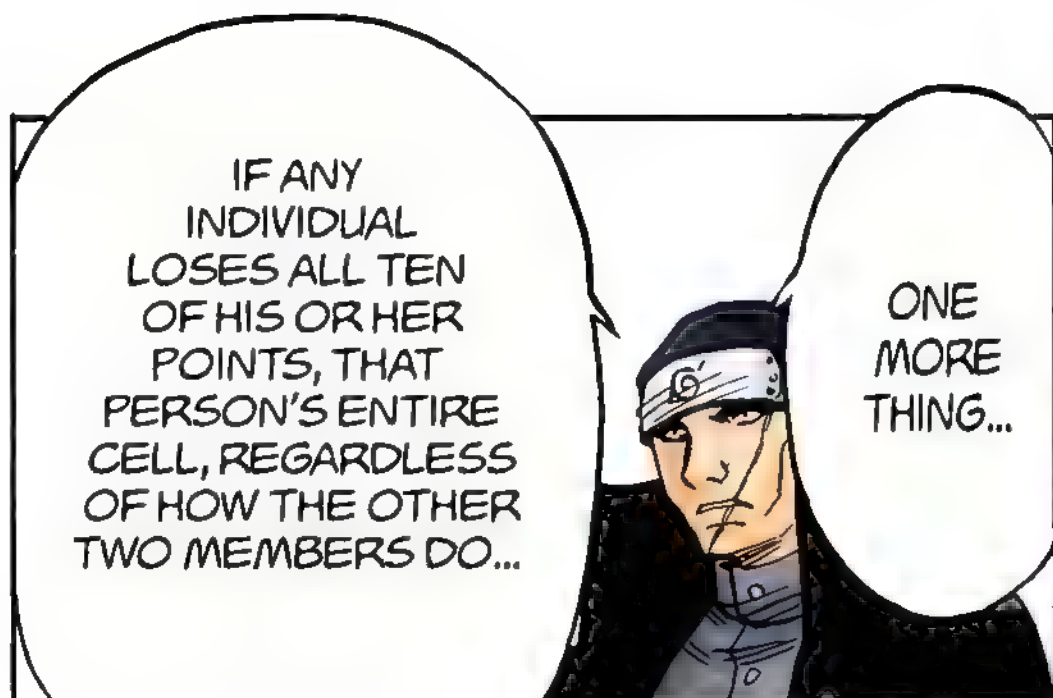
...IF YOU WANT  
TO BE THE  
BEST SHINOBI  
YOU CAN BE...

... THEN YOU'D  
BETTER START  
ACTING LIKE YOU  
ALREADY ARE!

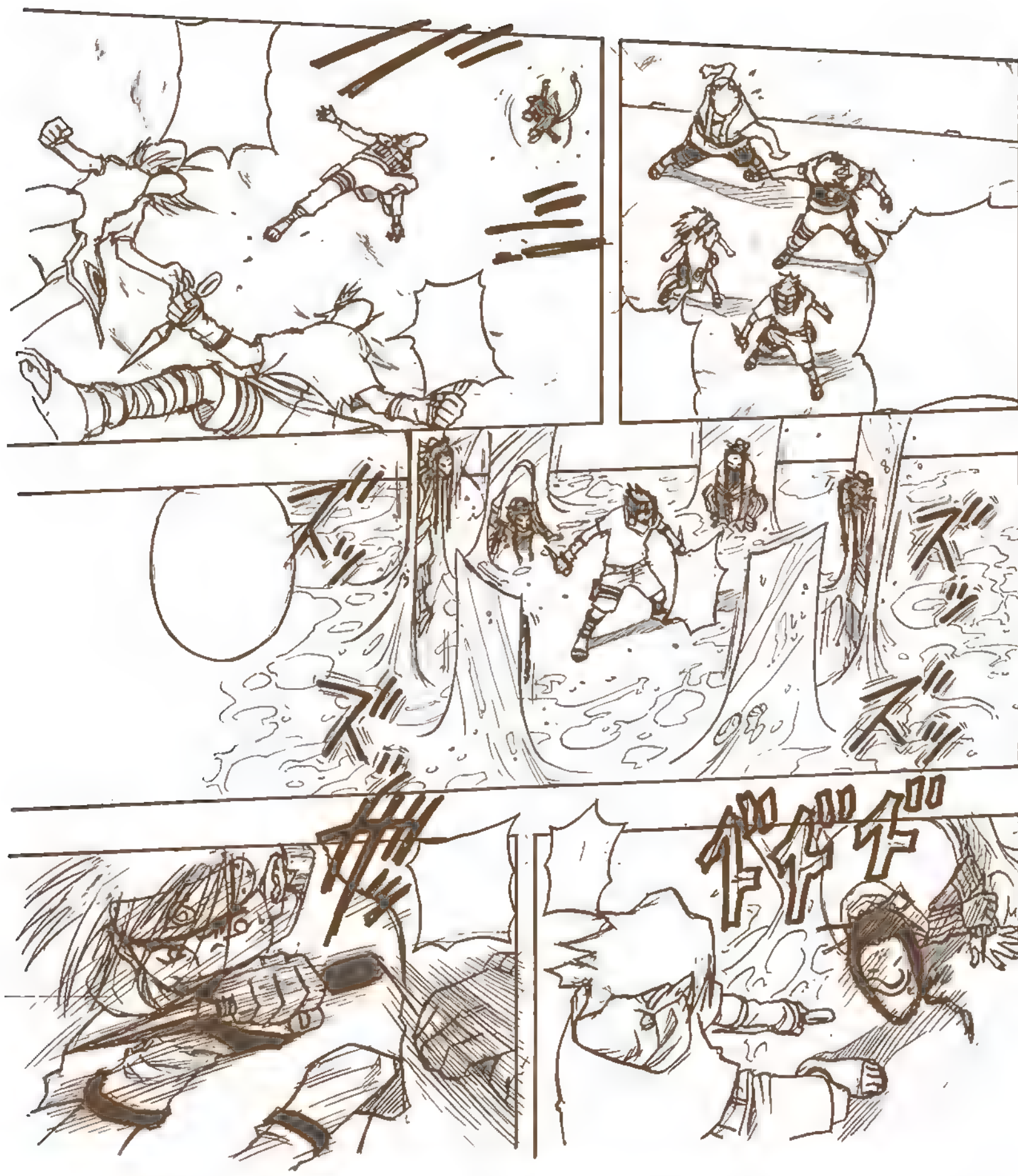


IF YOU  
LET THE  
PROCTORS  
CATCH YOU  
CHEATING,  
YOU'LL BRING  
YOURSELF  
AND YOUR  
FRIENDS  
DOWN!





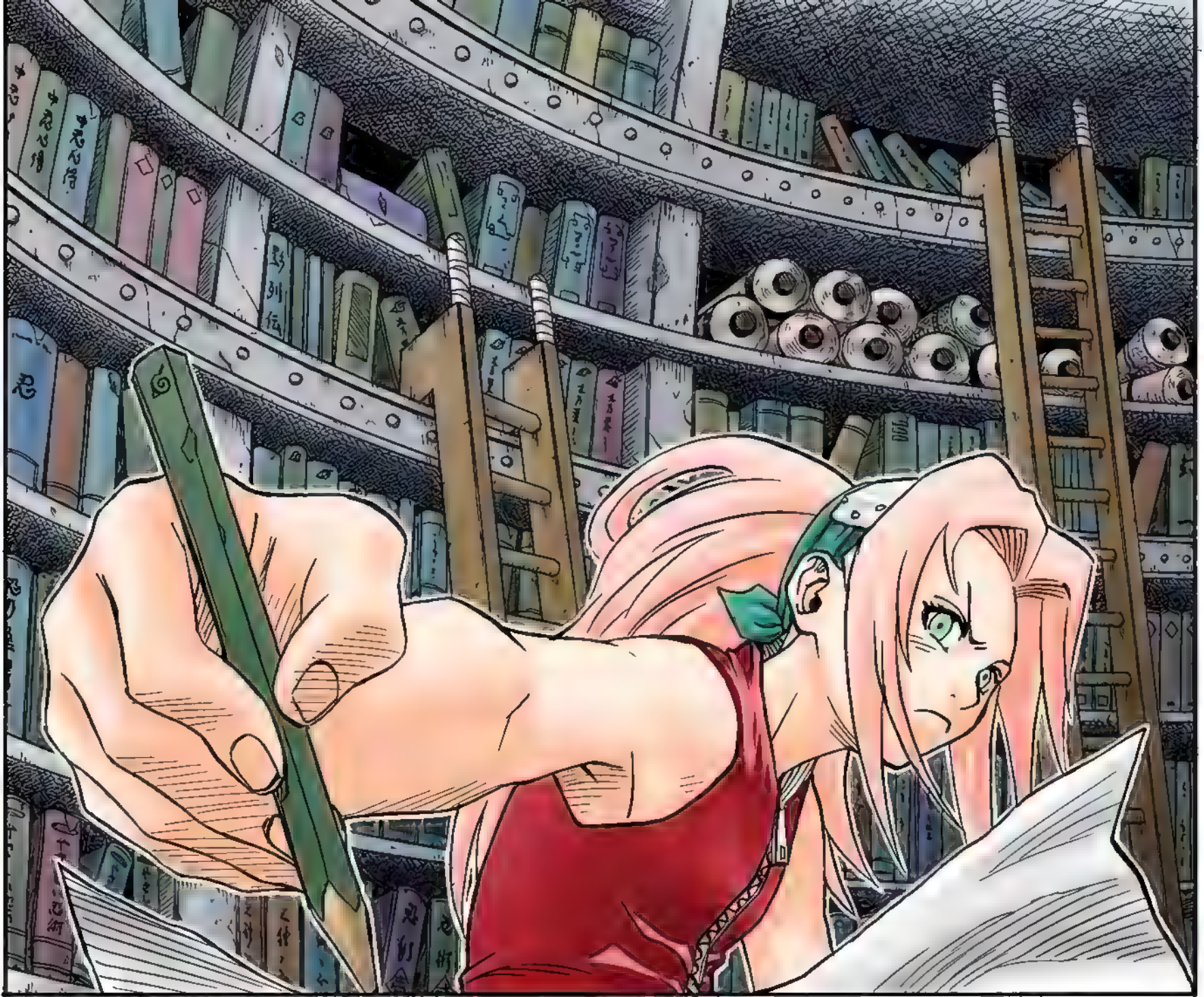




## KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S "I ONLY SHOW YOU THESE THINGS SO YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH I LOVE MANGA" REJECTS CORNER...

THE MANGA PAGE ABOVE IS A REJECTED PAGE FROM NARUTO. THIS PAGE HAD BEEN THUMBNAILLED, BROKEN DOWN IN PENCIL, AND THEN FINISHED IN INK... BUT I STILL REDREW IT, BECAUSE I JUST DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS UP TO SNUFF. THE LAYOUT WAS TOO STATIC, AND THE PANELS WERE TOO SMALL FOR THE KIND OF DYNAMIC, IMPORTANT ACTION THIS SEQUENCE CALLED FOR. TRYING TO MAINTAIN A WEEKLY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE LEAVES ME VERY LITTLE TIME FOR THE LUXURY OF FUSSING OVER ART, SO IT'S PRETTY RARE TO REDO ANYTHING ONCE IT'S DOWN ON PAPER.. BUT IF SOMETHING FEELS SO WRONG THAT I KNOW IT NEEDS FIXING, THEN I COMMIT TO THE CHANGE, NO MATTER HOW SET IN STONE I THINK MY STORY OUTLINE AND THUMBNAIL DRAWINGS ARE, AND NO MATTER HOW FAR ALONG I'VE GOTTEN IN THE FINISHED ART. IF SOMETHING REALLY FEELS WRONG, I'VE GOT TO RESPECT MY OWN CREATIVE GUT INSTINCTS. YOU KNOW... SEEING IT IN WRITING... I THINK I MAY HAVE JUST FIGURED OUT WHY I SOMETIMES HAVE TROUBLE MEETING DEADLINES!





THE CHUNIN JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAM  
RULES FOR PART ONE

- (1) EACH APPLICANT BEGINS WITH A PERFECT SCORE OF TEN POINTS. THERE ARE TEN QUESTIONS WORTH ONE POINT APIECE. A POINT IS SUBTRACTED FOR EVERY INCORRECT ANSWER. THE GRADING SYSTEM IS ENTIRELY BASED ON A PRINCIPLE OF PENALIZATION.
- (2) THE EXAM IS A TEAM EVENT. WHAT MATTERS IS HOW CLOSE EACH THREE-NINJA CELL CAN COME TO RETAINING ITS INITIAL THIRTY POINTS.
- (3) ANYONE CAUGHT ATTEMPTING TO CHEAT OR AIDING AND ABETTING A CHEATER WILL LOSE TWO POINTS FOR EACH OFFENSE.
- (4) ANYONE WHO HAS NO POINTS LEFT AT THE TEST'S END--WHETHER DUE TO BEING CAUGHT CHEATING OR TO AN INABILITY TO ANSWER ANY OF THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY--WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL; IF A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL FAILS, THE REMAINING TWO MEMBERS OF THAT PERSON'S CELL WILL BE FAILED AS WELL.

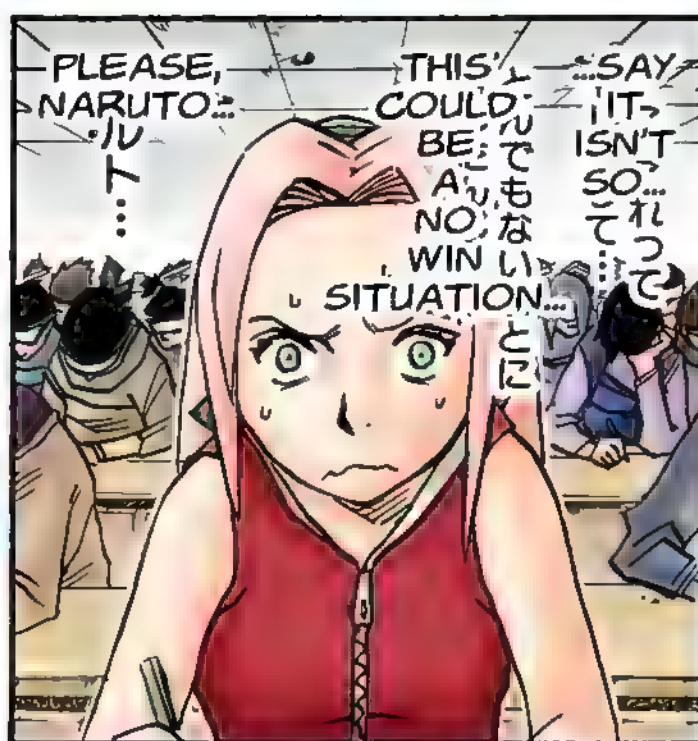
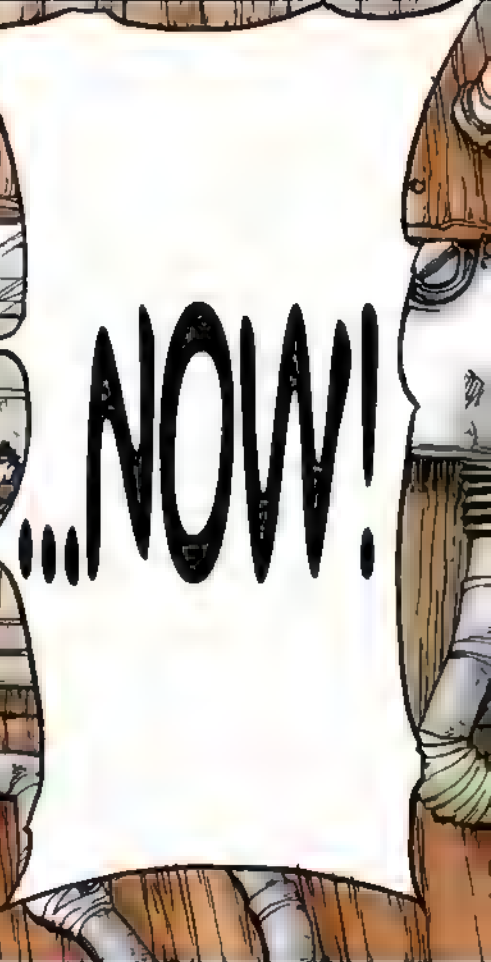
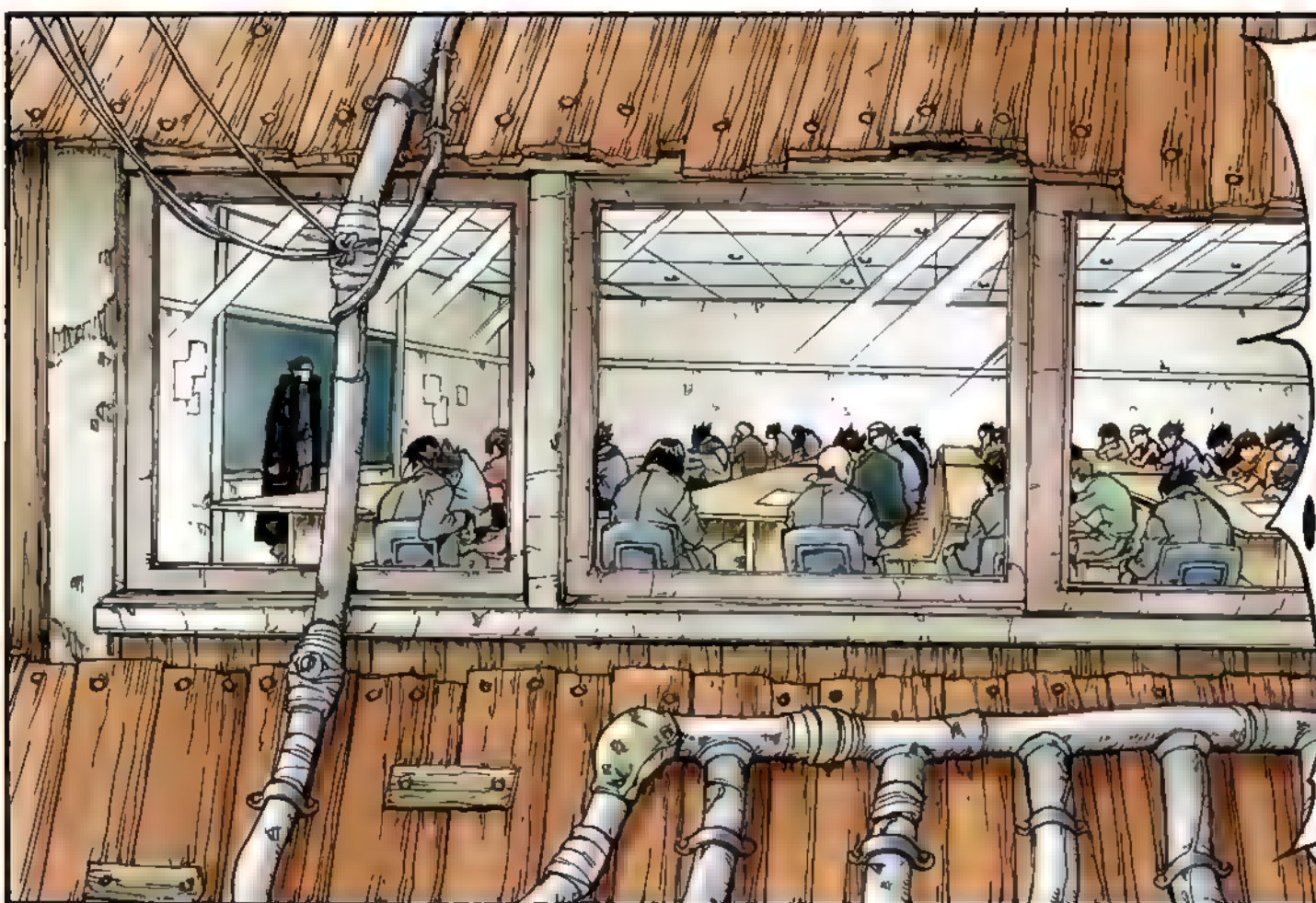
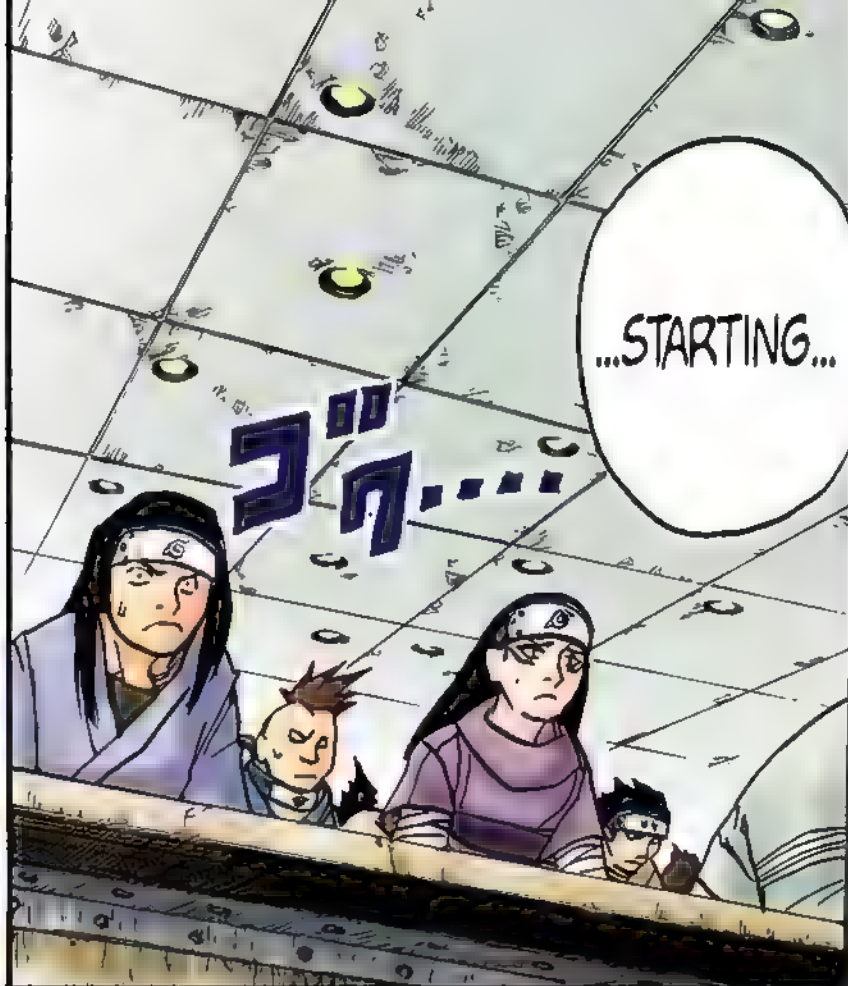
悪魔の囁き...!?

あくま  
ま  
や  
ナ  
ン  
バ  
ー

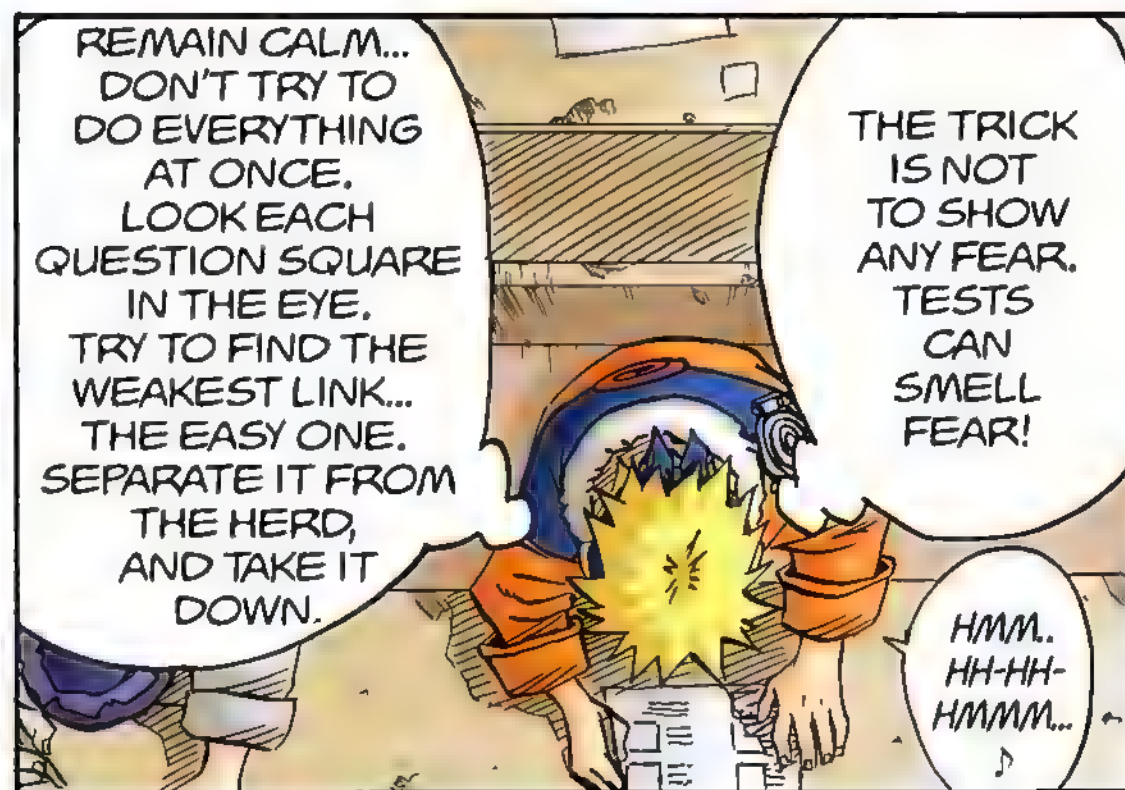
41

THE  
WHISPER  
OF  
DEMONS...?

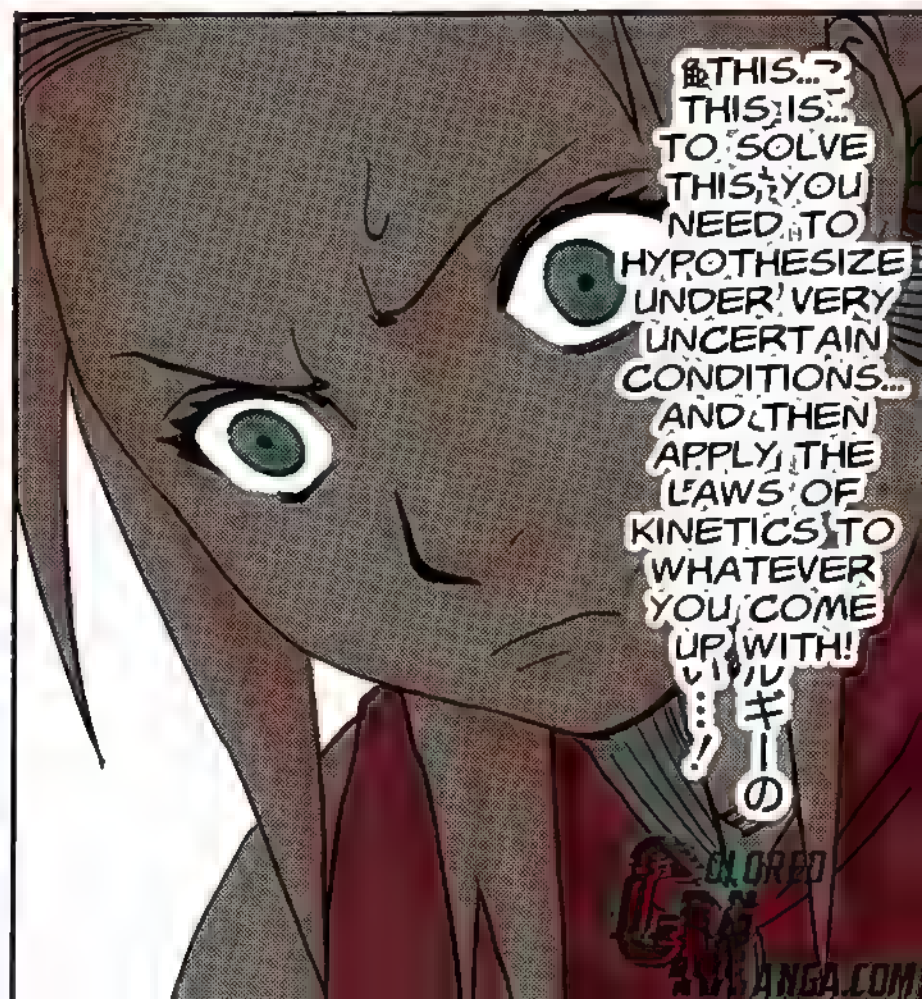
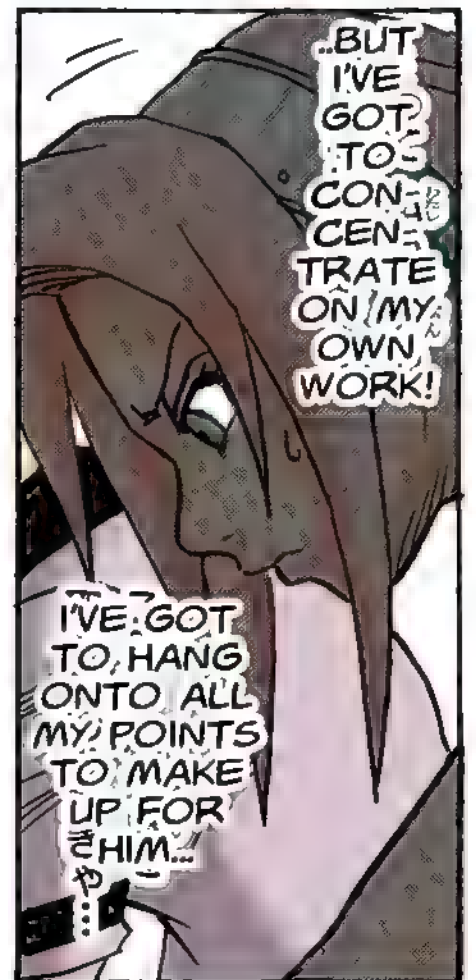
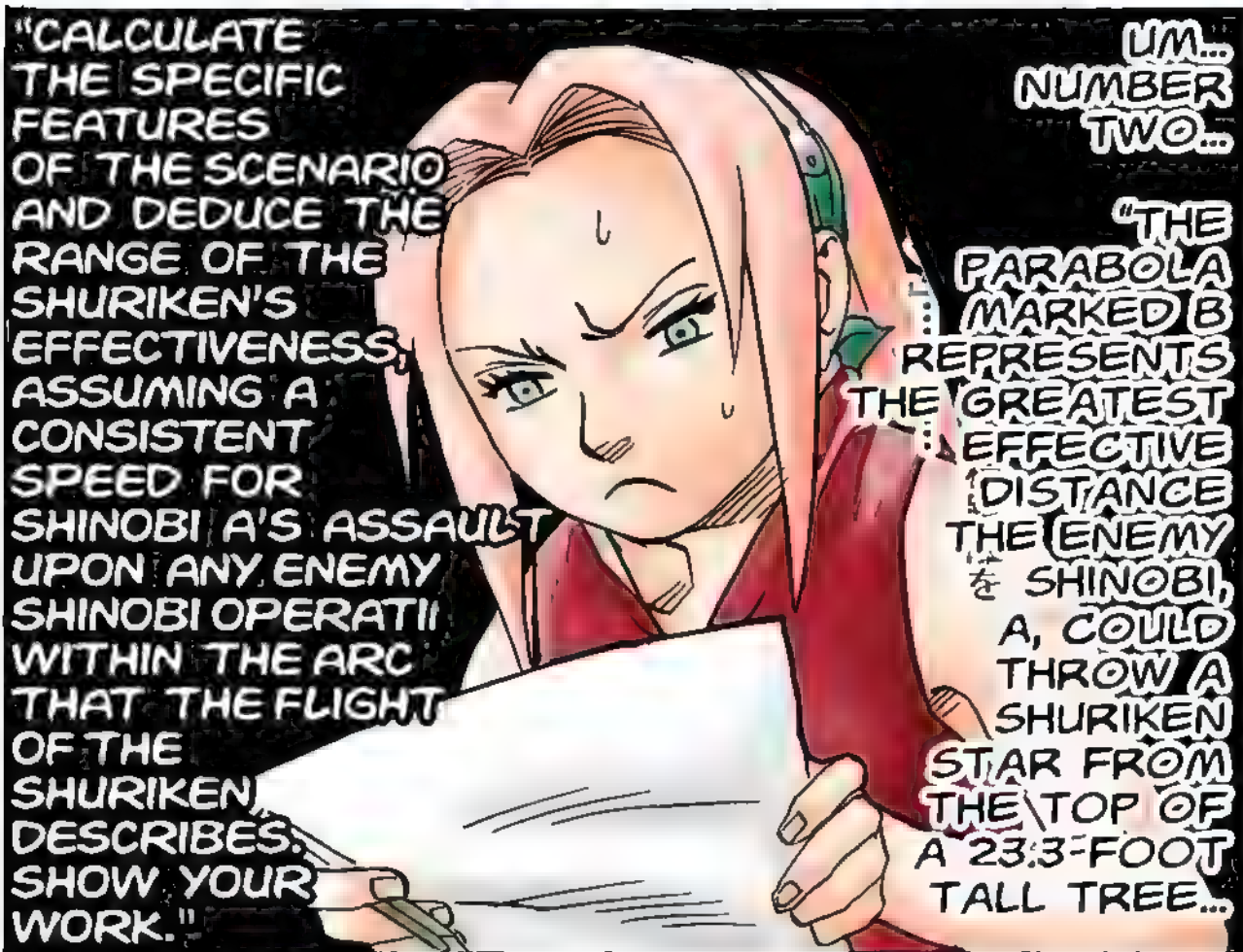
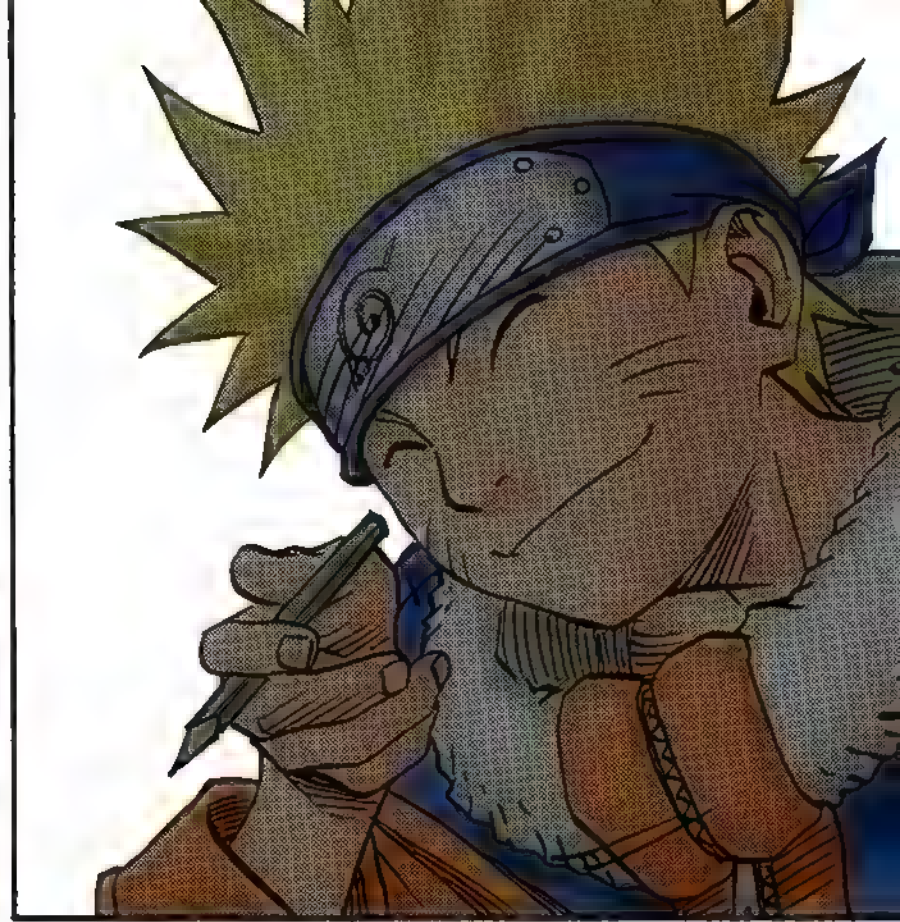




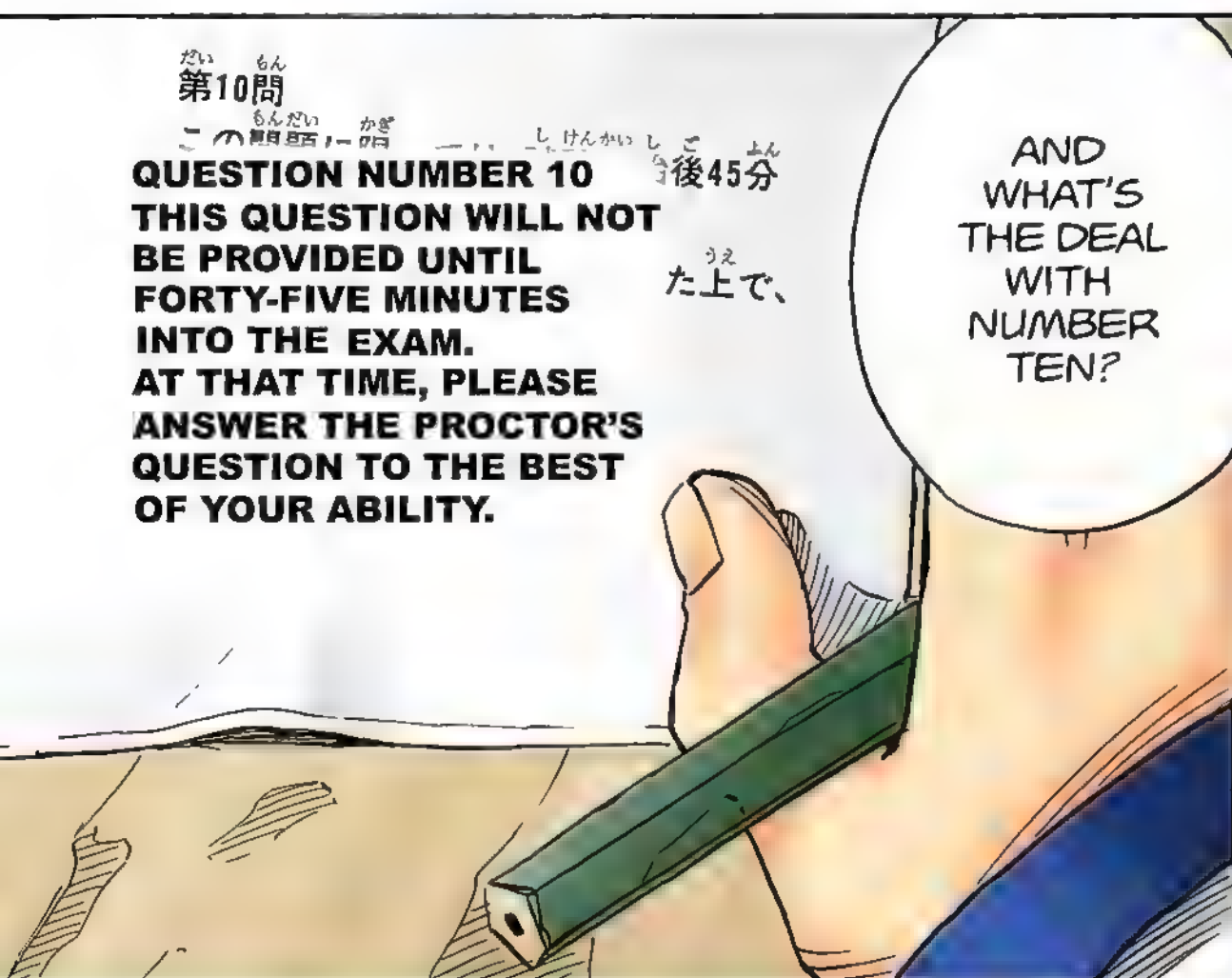
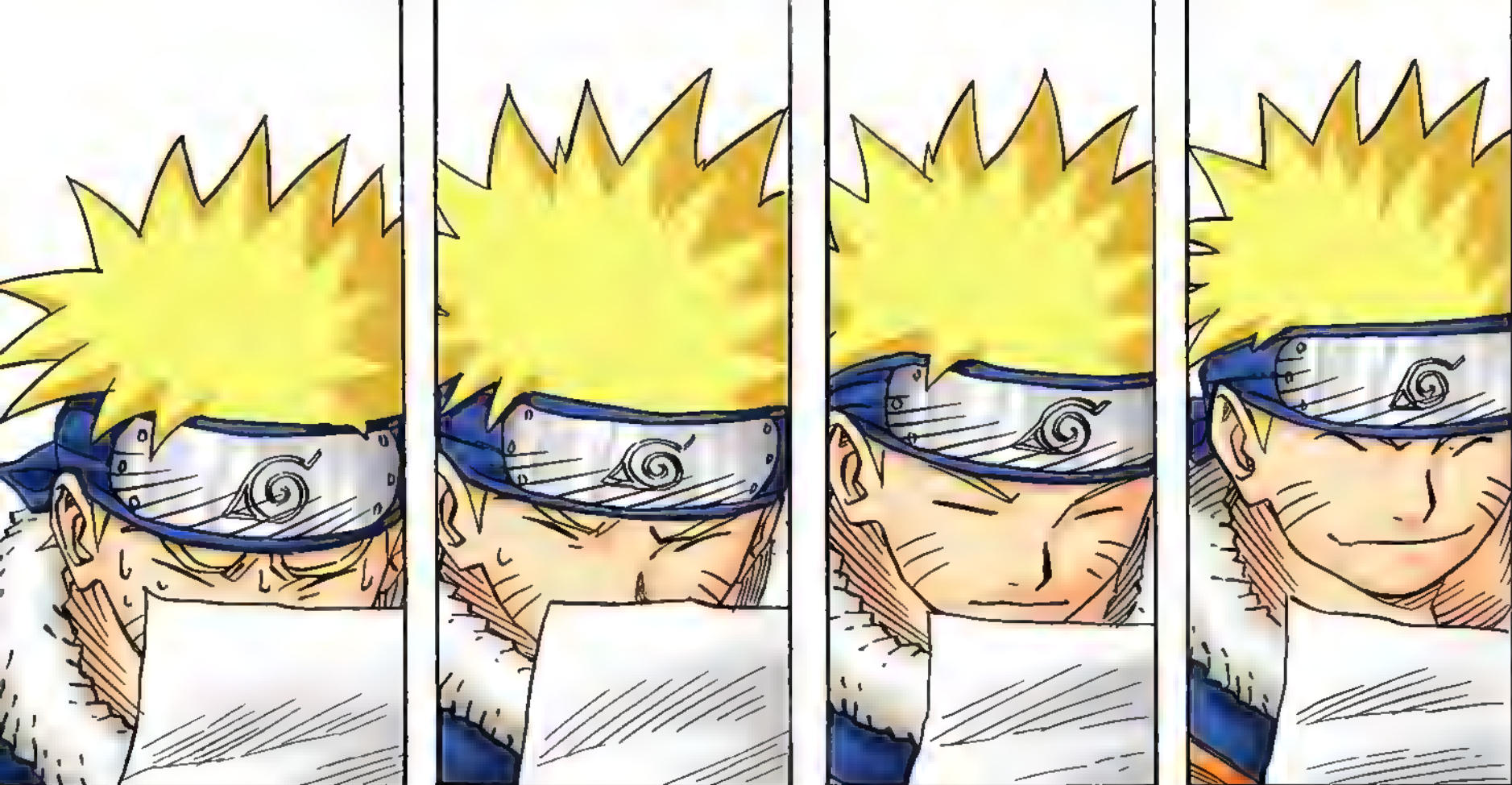














AW...

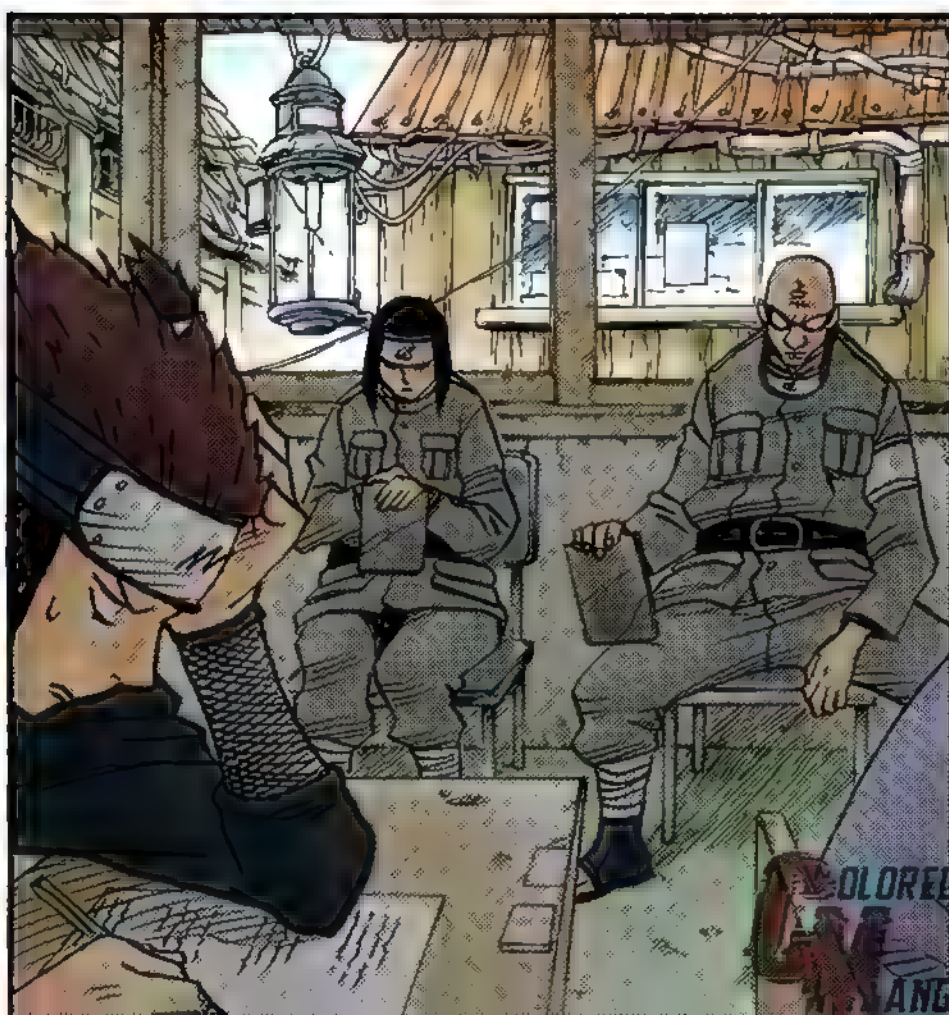
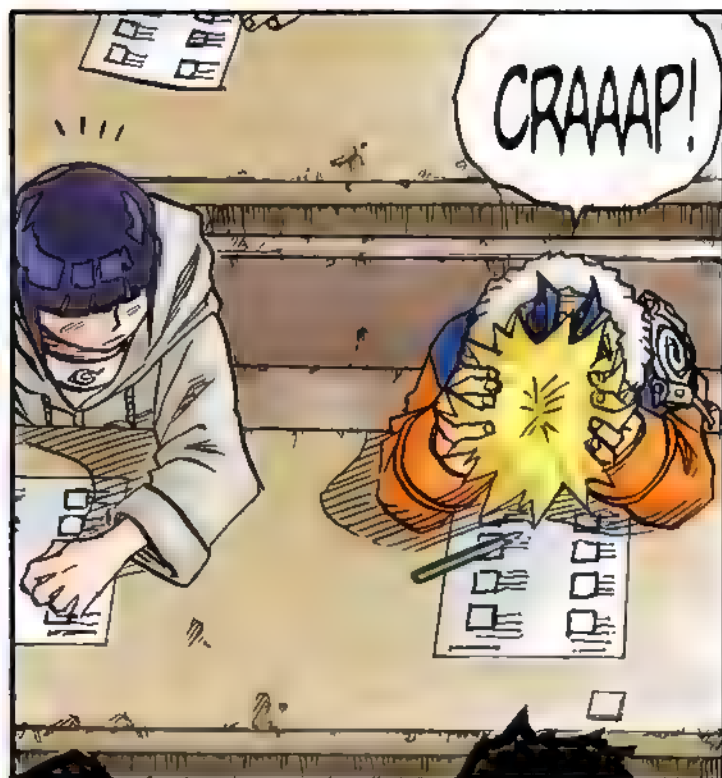
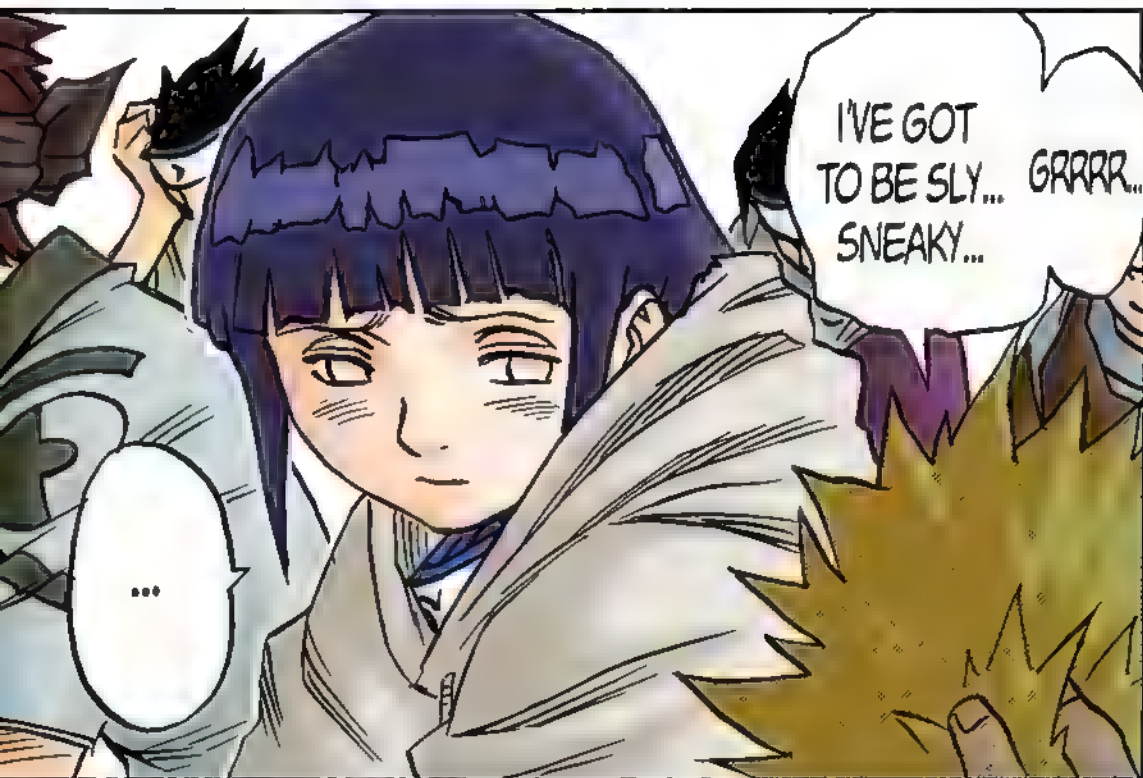
MAN, AM I  
SCREWED  
HERE.  
TOTALLY.  
SERIOUSLY.  
FATALLY  
SCREWED!



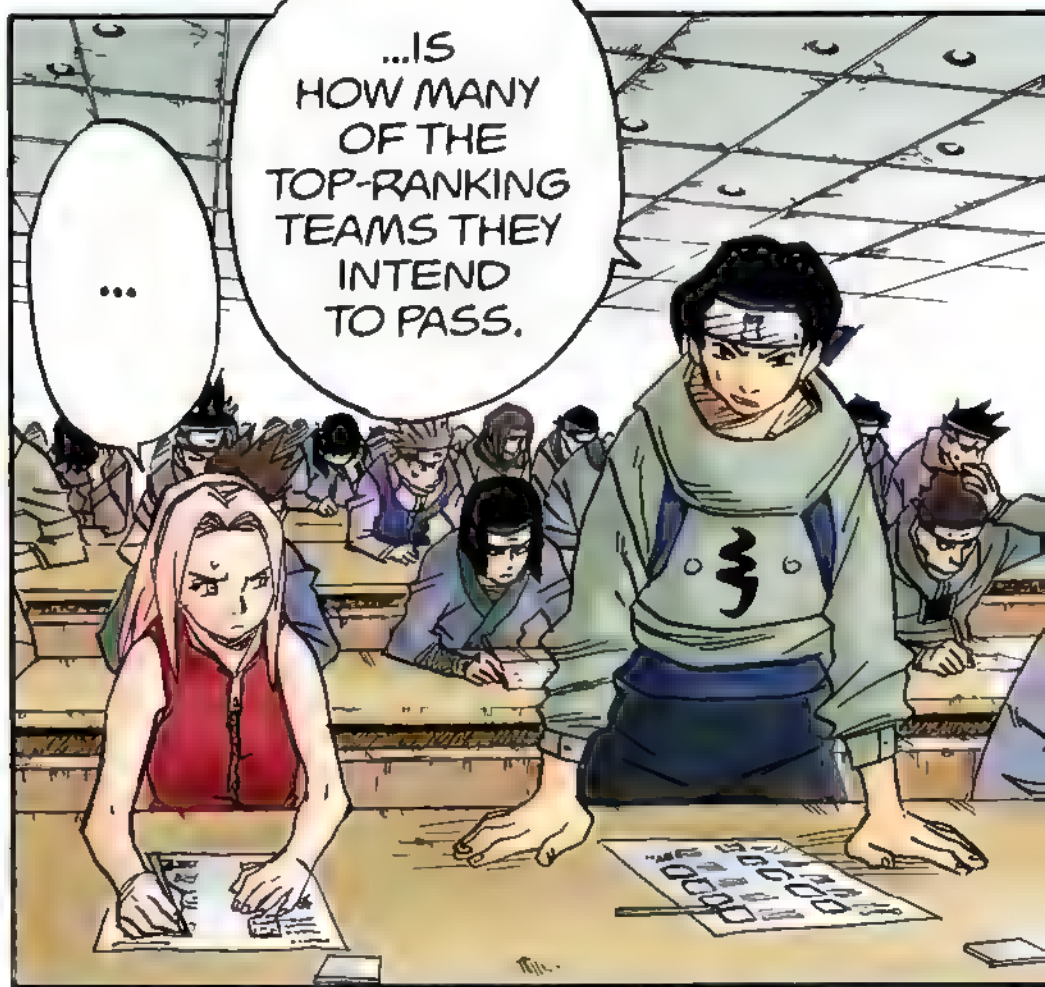
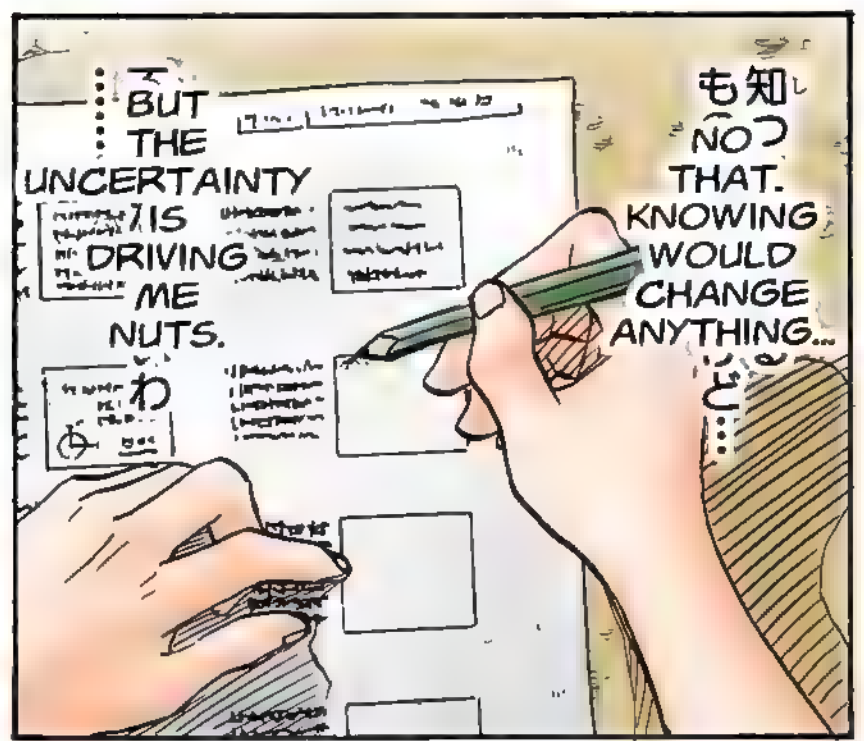
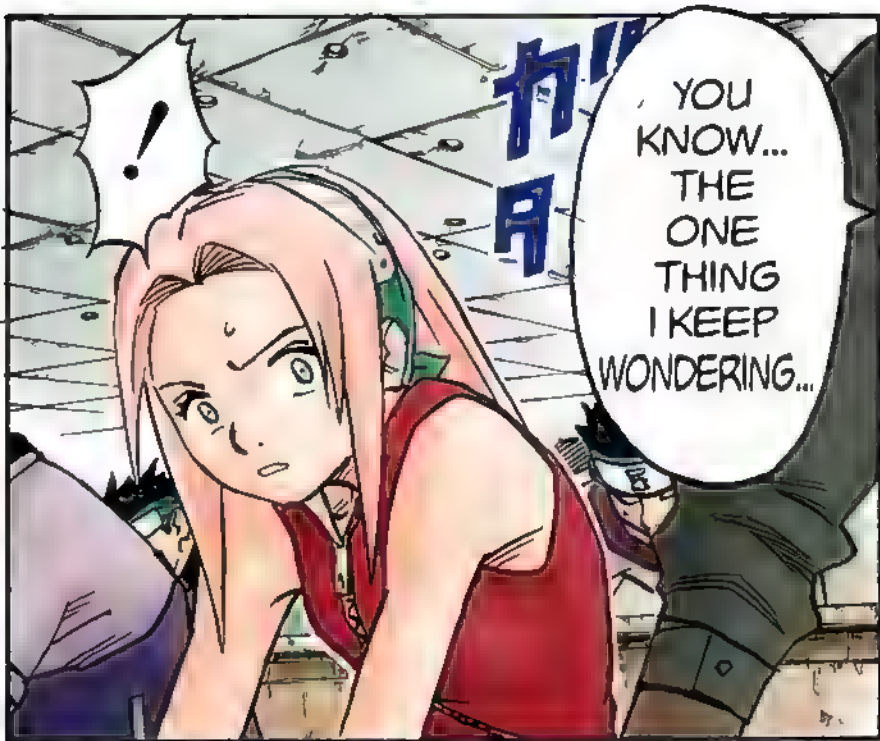
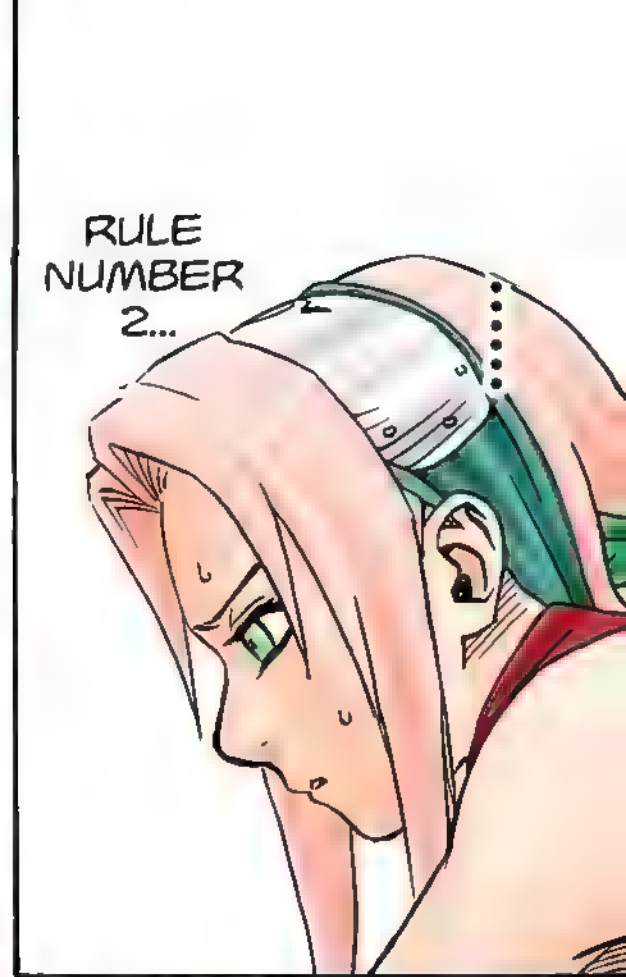
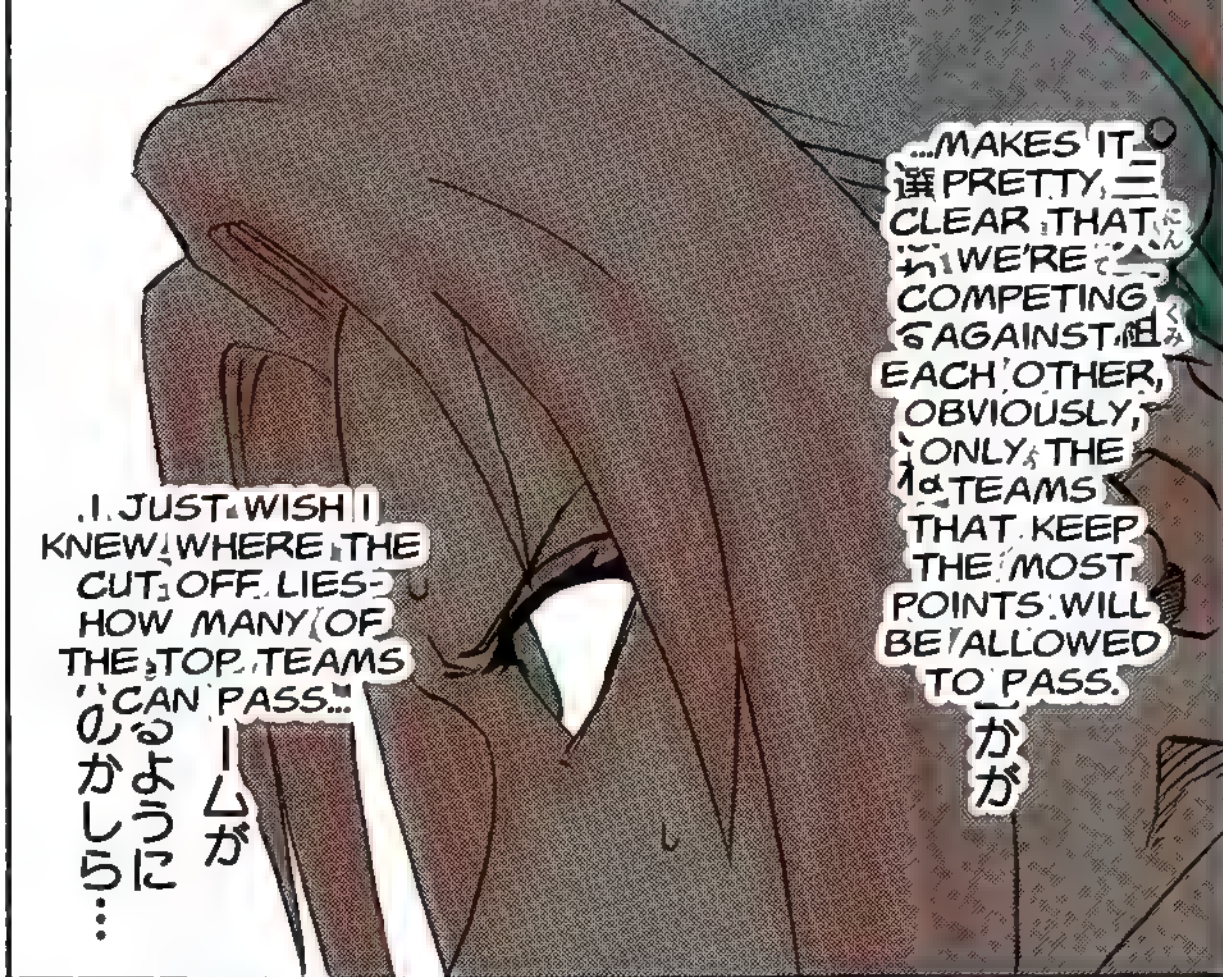
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?



WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?  
WHAT DO I DO?





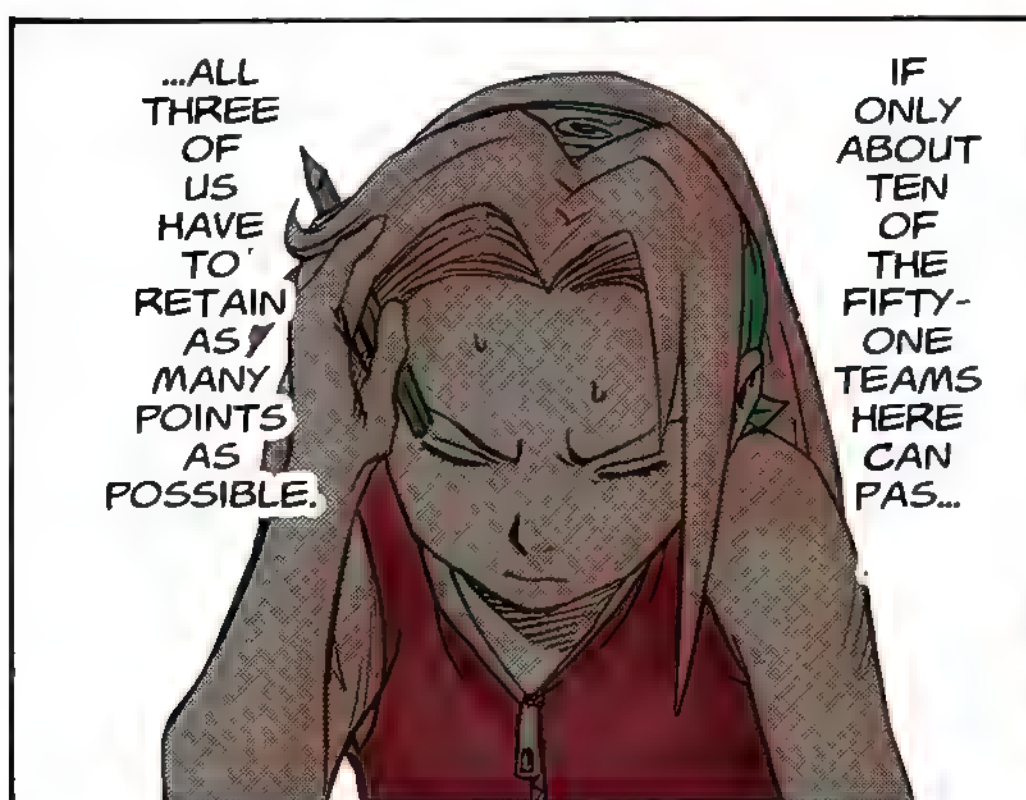






UNLESS  
YOU'RE  
HOPING  
TO  
FAIL.

KNOWING  
THAT  
NOW  
ISN'T  
GOING  
TO HELP  
YOU,  
IS IT?



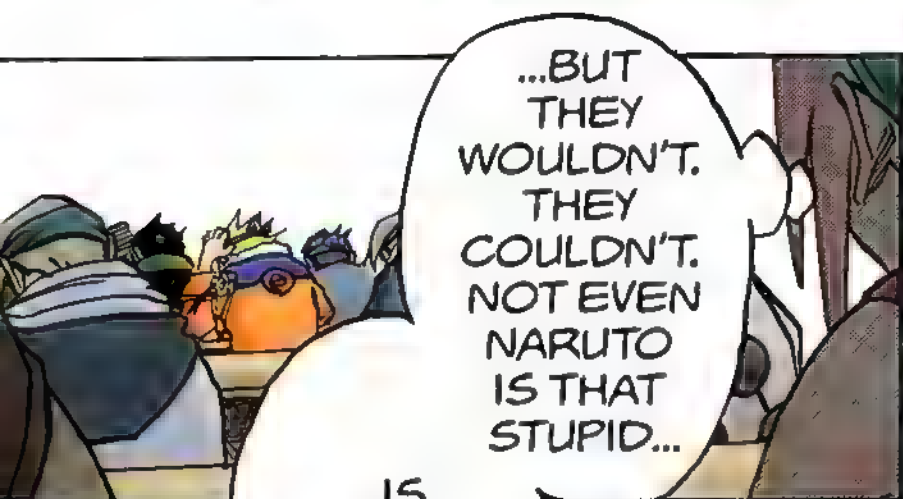
...ALL  
THREE  
OF  
US  
HAVE  
TO  
RETAIN  
AS  
MANY  
POINTS  
AS  
POSSIBLE.

IF  
ONLY  
ABOUT  
TEN  
OF  
THE  
FIFTY-  
ONE  
TEAMS  
HERE  
CAN  
PAS...



I  
THOUGHT  
SO!

I-I'M  
SORRY...



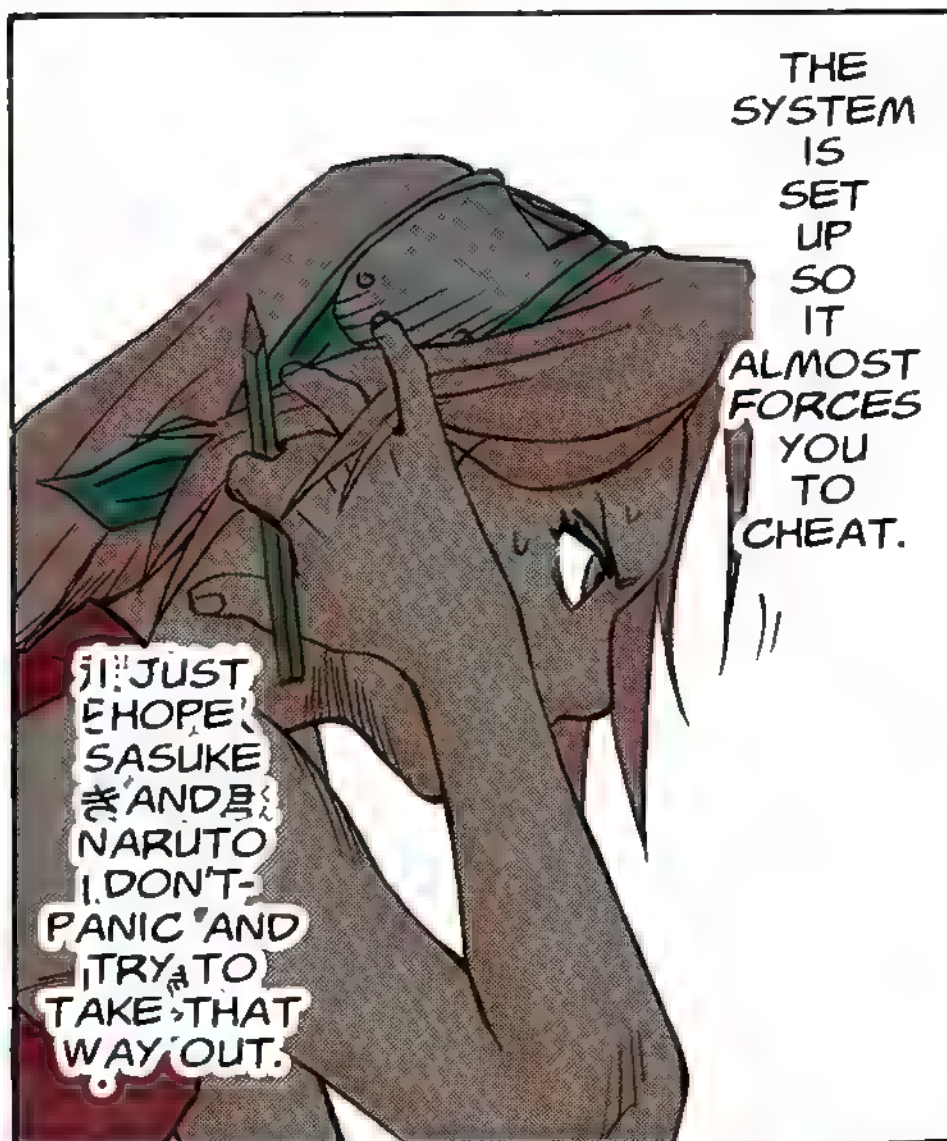
...BUT  
THEY  
WOULDN'T.  
THEY  
COULDN'T.  
NOT EVEN  
NARUTO  
IS THAT  
STUPID...

...IS  
HE?



ABOVE  
ALL,  
PROCEED  
WITH  
CAUTION.

REMAIN  
CALM...



THE  
SYSTEM  
IS  
SET  
UP  
SO  
IT  
ALMOST  
FORCES  
YOU  
TO  
CHEAT.

IT JUST  
HOPE  
SASUKE  
AND  
NARUTO  
I DON'T  
PANIC  
AND  
TRY TO  
TAKE THAT  
WAY OUT.





MY ONLY  
HOPE  
IS TO  
CHEAT  
SO WELL  
THEY DON'T  
CATCH ME!!!



WITH SO MANY  
PROCTORS  
LOOKING OVER  
OUR SHOULDERS,  
THEY'RE PROBABLY  
WATCHING EVERY  
LITTLE THING EVERY  
ONE OF US DOES...  
MAKING NOTES  
ABOUT US IN THEIR  
GRADEBOOKS!



...

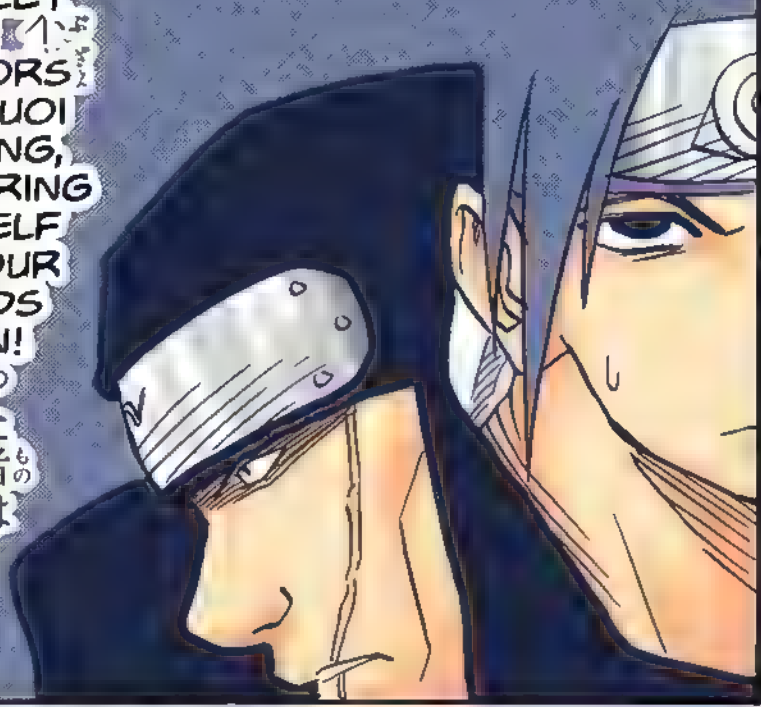


DANGER!  
DANGER!  
DO NOT  
GO THERE!

NO WAY!  
NO WAY!  
DON'T  
EVEN  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT!



IF YOU LET  
THE PROCTORS  
CATCH YOU  
CHEATING,  
YOU'LL BRING  
YOURSELF  
AND YOUR  
FRIENDS  
DOWN!  
得た者は  
得てもらおう



THE AXE  
HAS FALLEN  
SOMEWHERE  
たな



HOLD  
IT!!



IF YOU  
ASPIRE TO  
BECOME  
CHÛNIN...  
...IF YOU WANT  
TO BE  
THE BEST  
SHINOBI  
YOU CAN BE...  
...THEN YOU'D  
BETTER  
START ACTING  
LIKE YOU  
ALREADY ARE!



YOU'RE HISTORY  
IF YOU DON'T  
FIGURE IT OUT!

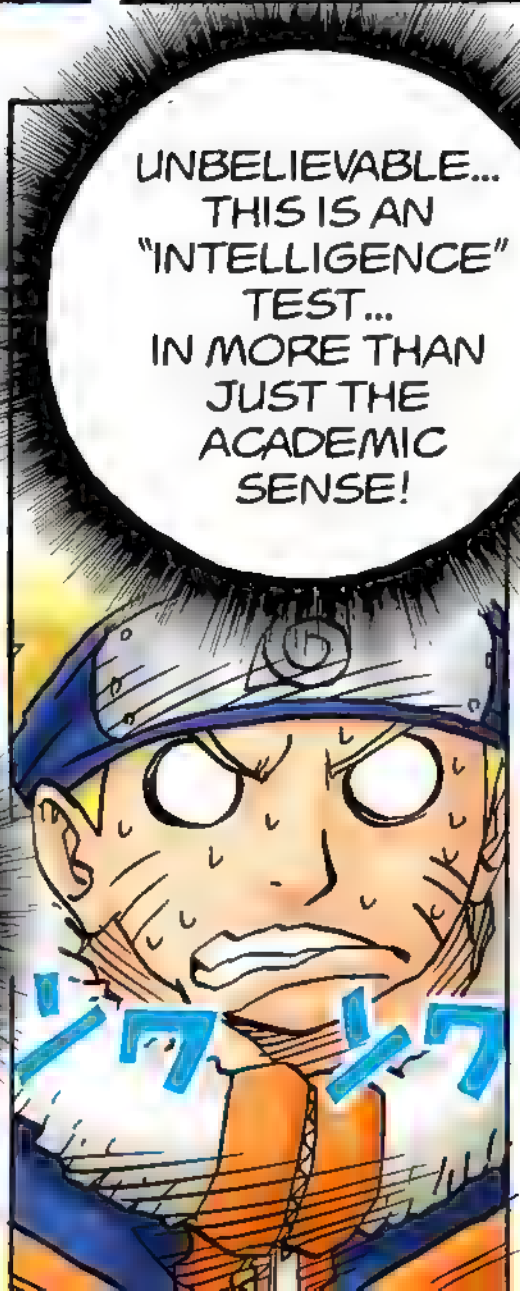


THEY'RE  
ALSO  
TESTING...  
デなら  
ストは

WAKE  
UP,  
NARUTO!



UNBELIEVABLE...  
THIS IS AN  
"INTELLIGENCE"  
TEST...  
IN MORE THAN  
JUST THE  
ACADEMIC  
SENSE!



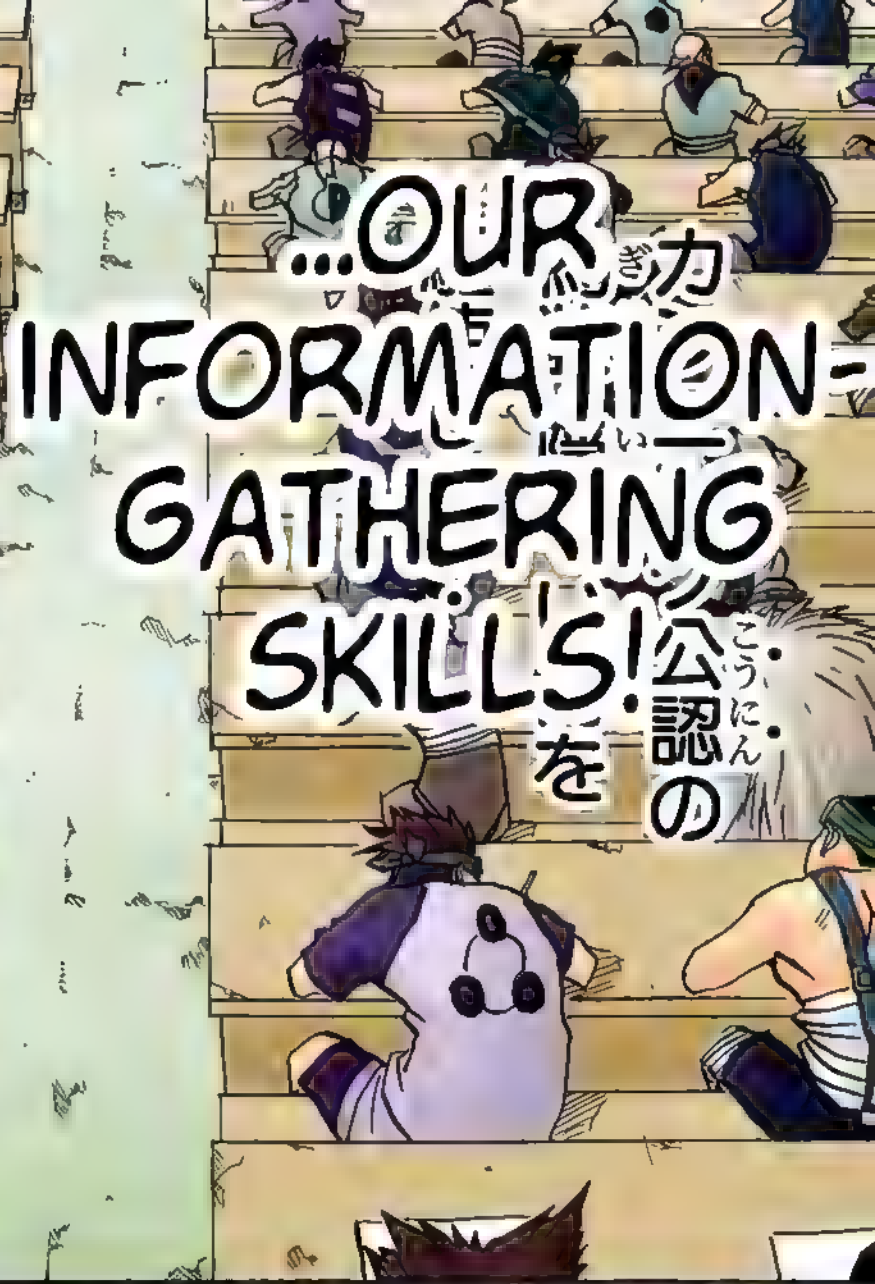
NOW  
GET IT!!  
か!!



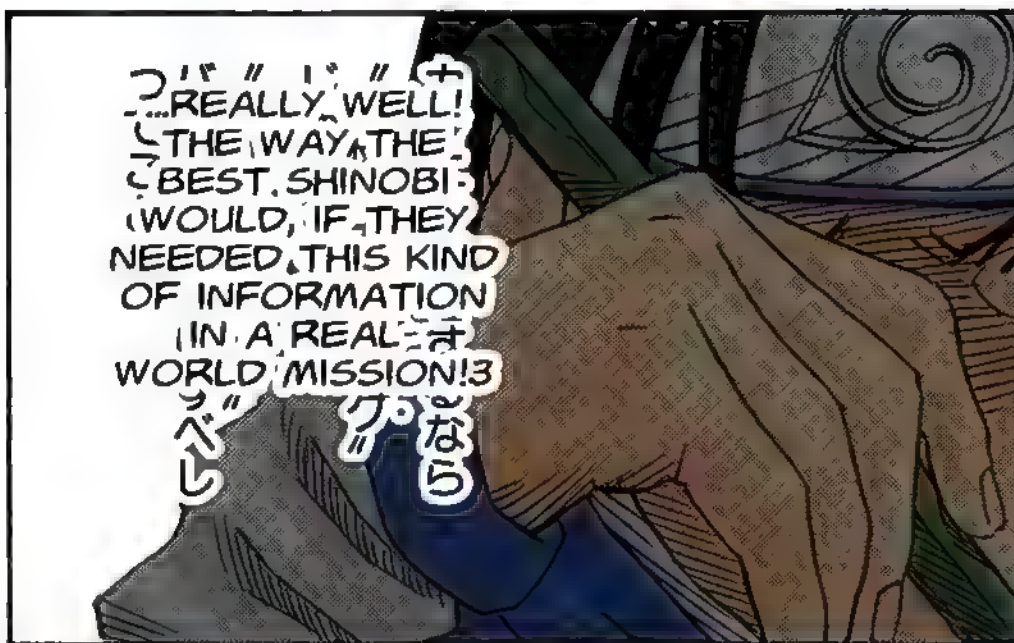




THEY WANT  
US TO  
CHEAT...  
LIKE  
SHINOBI!



...OUR  
INFORMATION-  
GATHERING  
SKILLS!  
公認の



...REALLY WELL!  
THE WAY THE  
BEST SHINOBI  
WOULD, IF THEY  
NEEDED THIS KIND  
OF INFORMATION  
IN A REAL  
WORLD MISSION!  
ならば  
べし

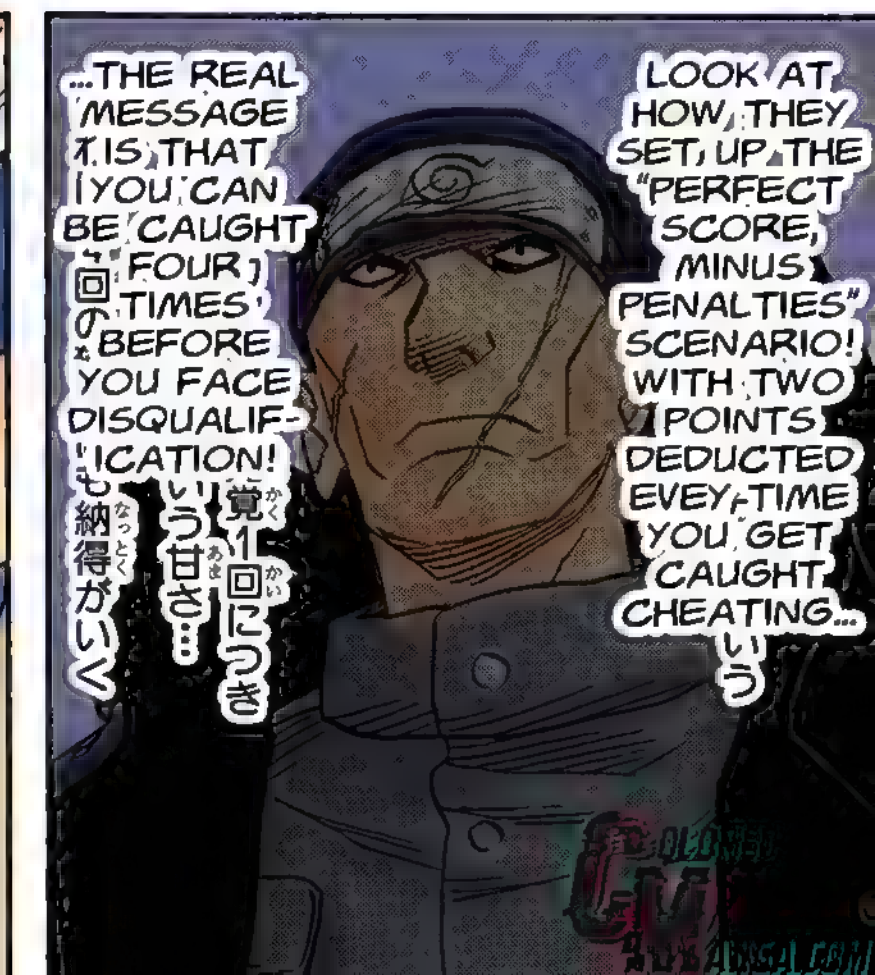


本： か  
SHINOBI MUST  
LEARN TO  
UNCOVER THE  
SECRETS WITHIN  
SECRETS. THE  
PROCTORS WANT  
US TO CHEAT...  
のめ



WHAT WE'RE  
BEING  
TESTED ON  
IS NOT  
WHETHER  
WE KNOW  
THE  
ANSWERS...

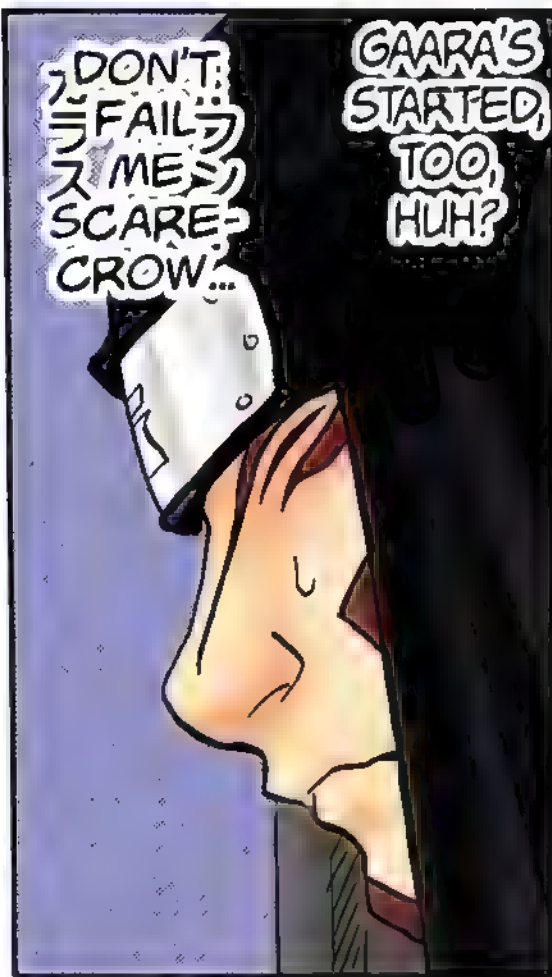
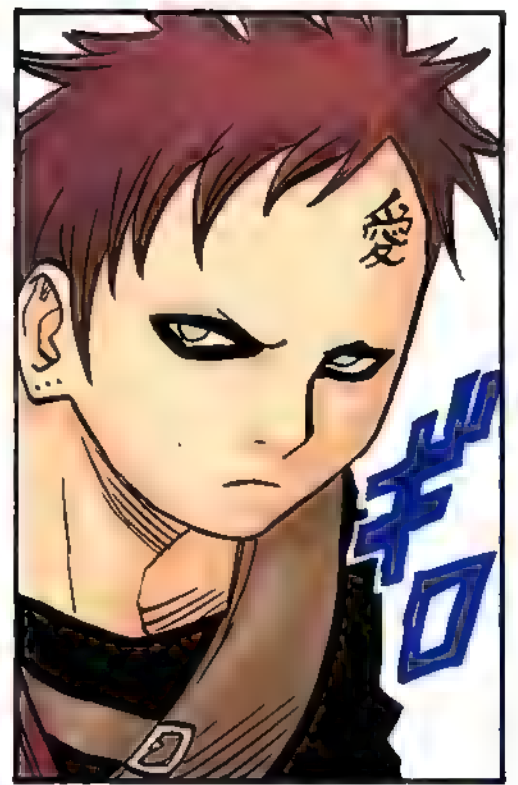
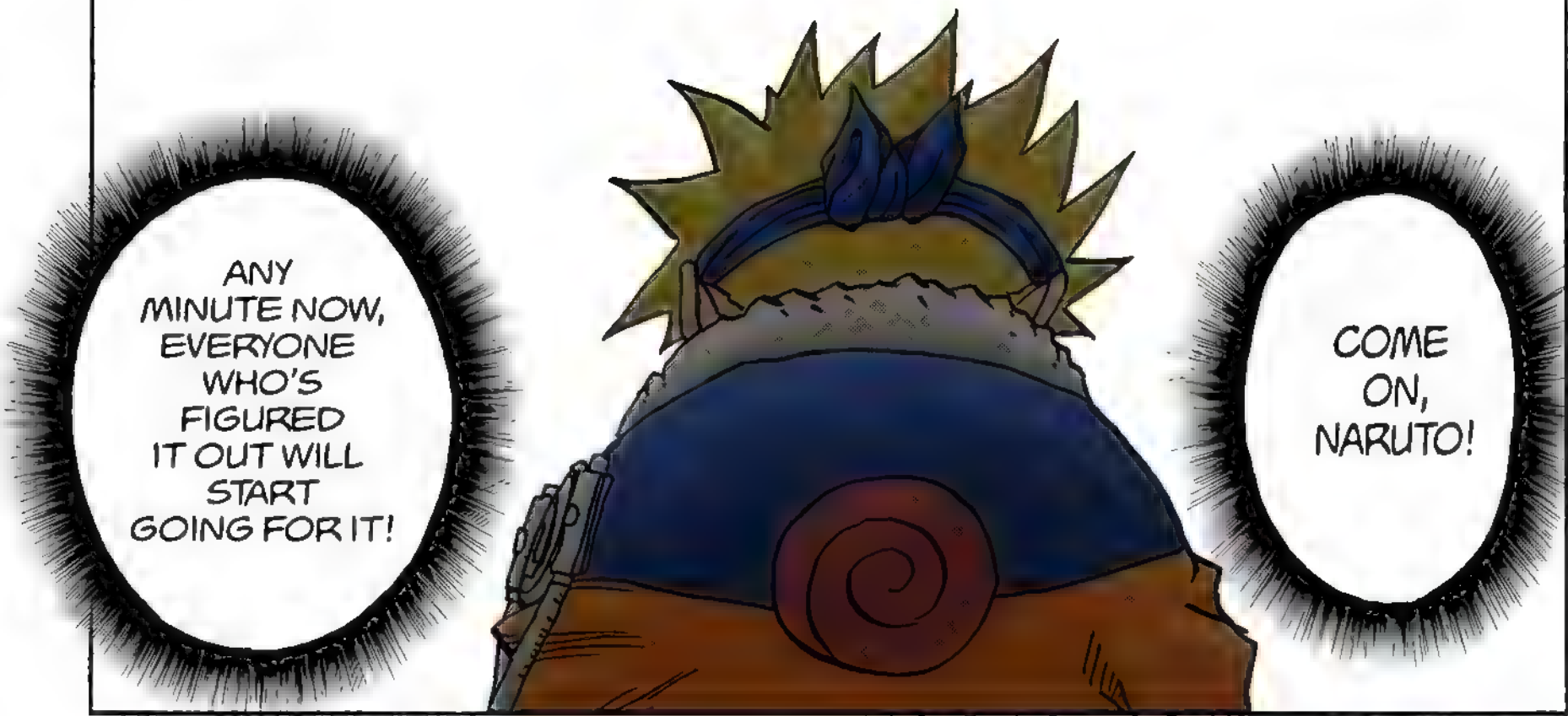
集め... BUT HOW  
SKILLFULLY WE  
CAN DISCOVER  
THEM!  
正確な答えを  
とができるか...



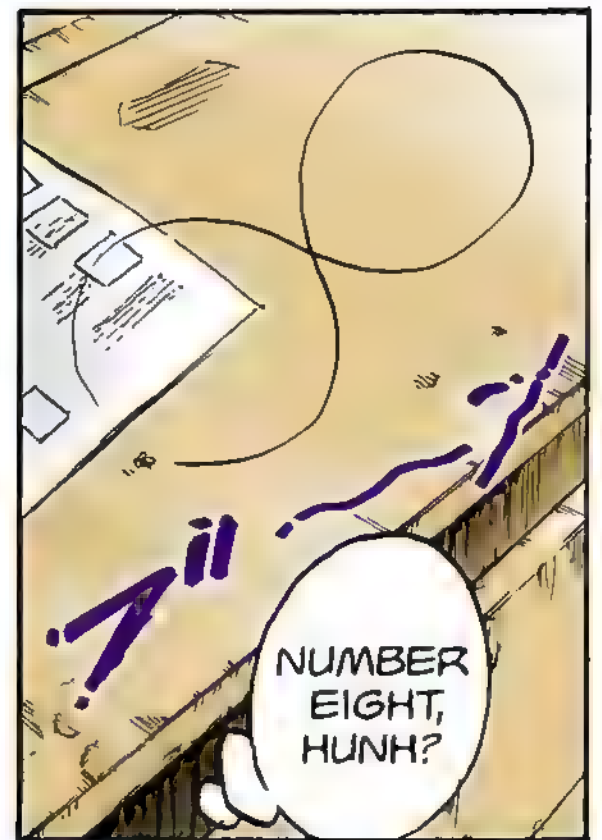
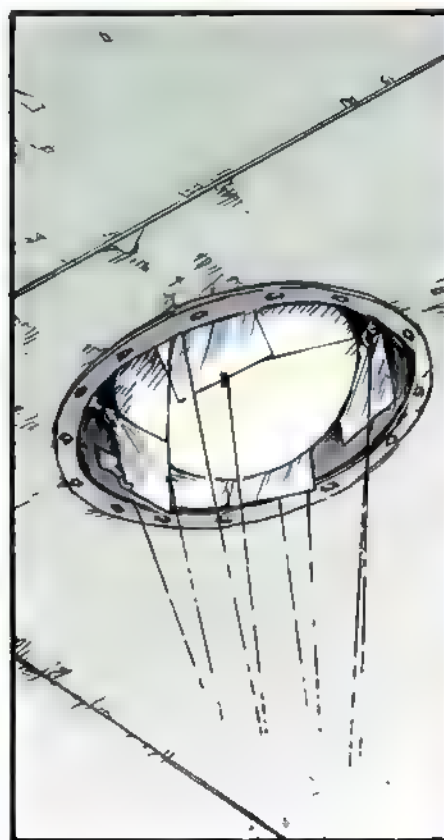
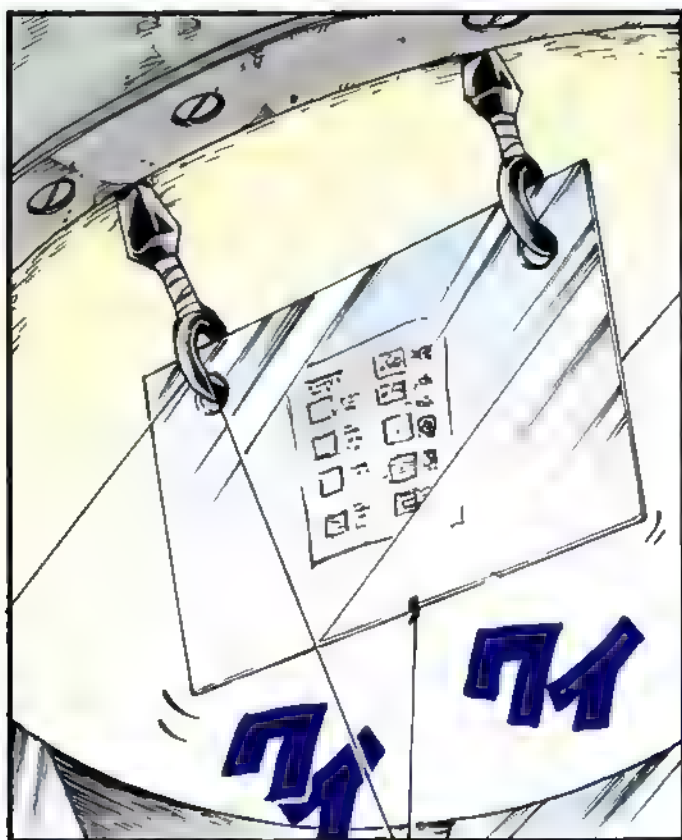
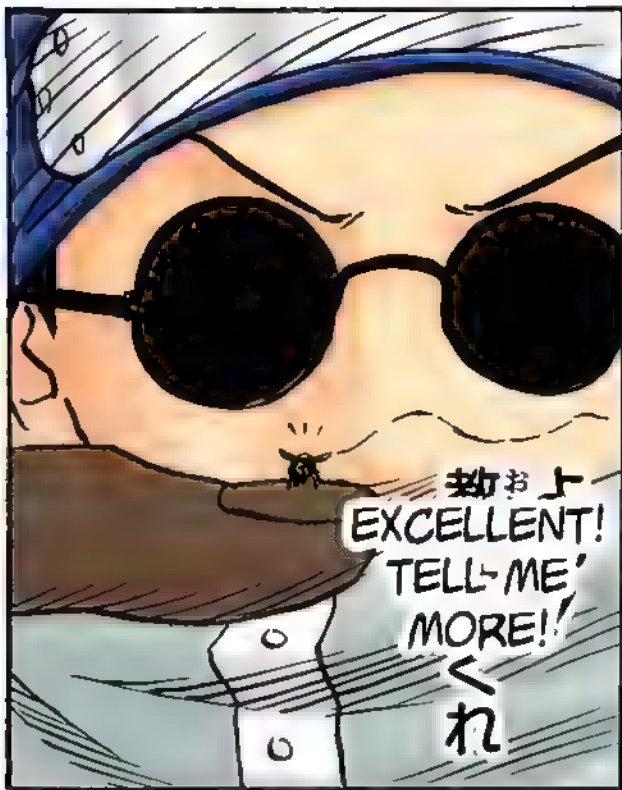
...THE REAL  
MESSAGE  
IS THAT  
YOU CAN  
BE CAUGHT  
FOUR  
TIMES  
BEFORE  
YOU FACE  
DISQUALIFICATION!  
覚悟  
一回につき  
いっぺん  
納得がいく

LOOK AT  
HOW THEY  
SET UP THE  
"PERFECT  
SCORE,  
MINUS  
PENALTIES"  
SCENARIO!  
WITH TWO  
POINTS  
DEDUCTED  
EVERY TIME  
YOU GET  
CAUGHT  
CHEATING...  
いう

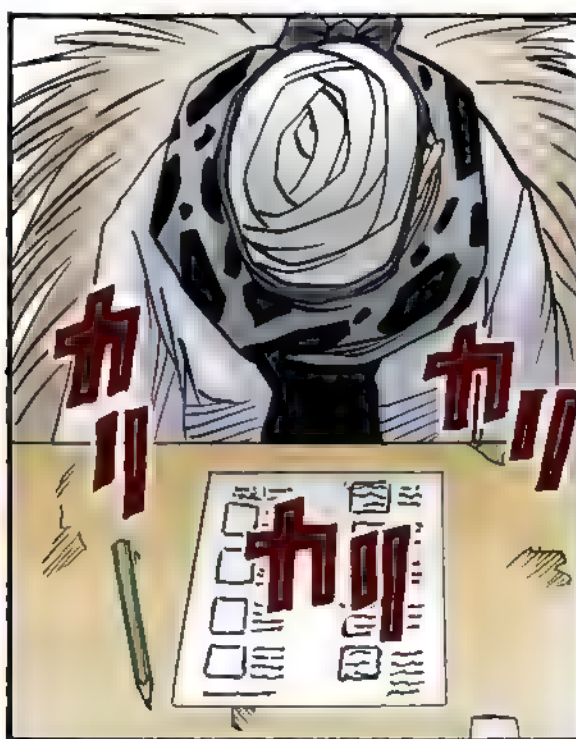
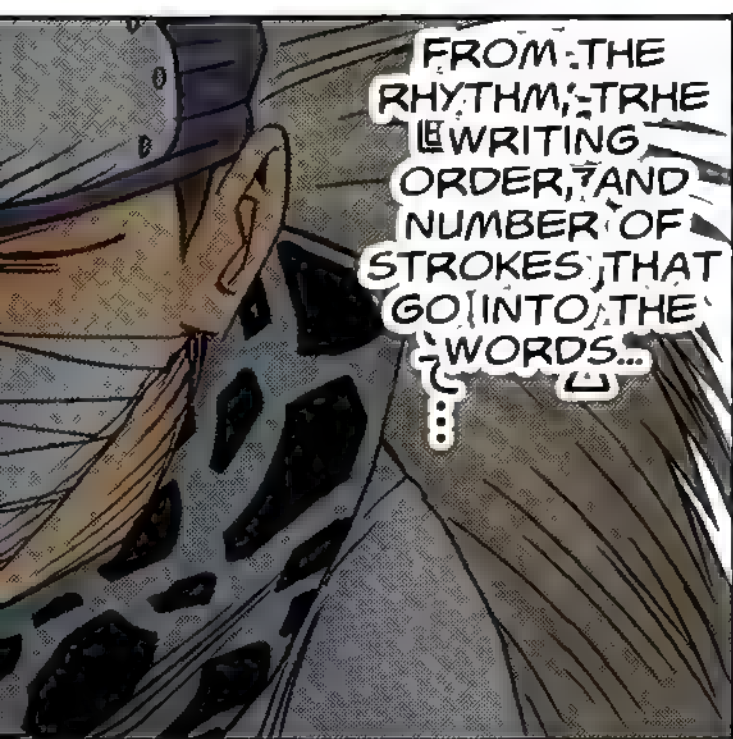








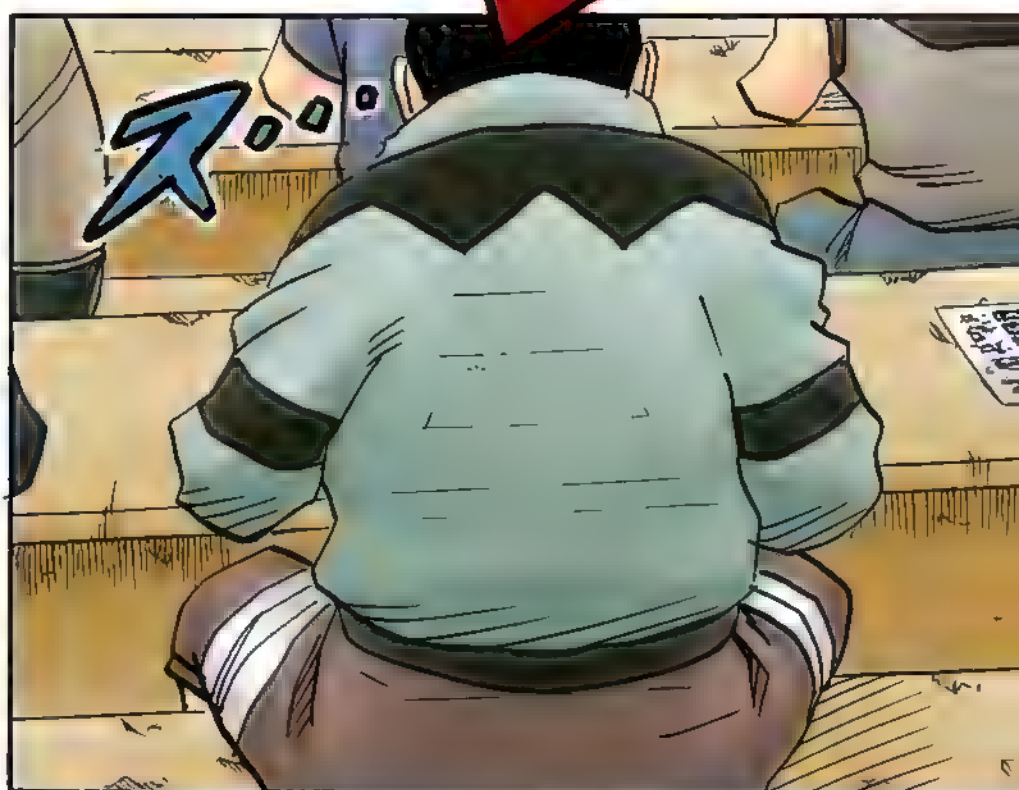
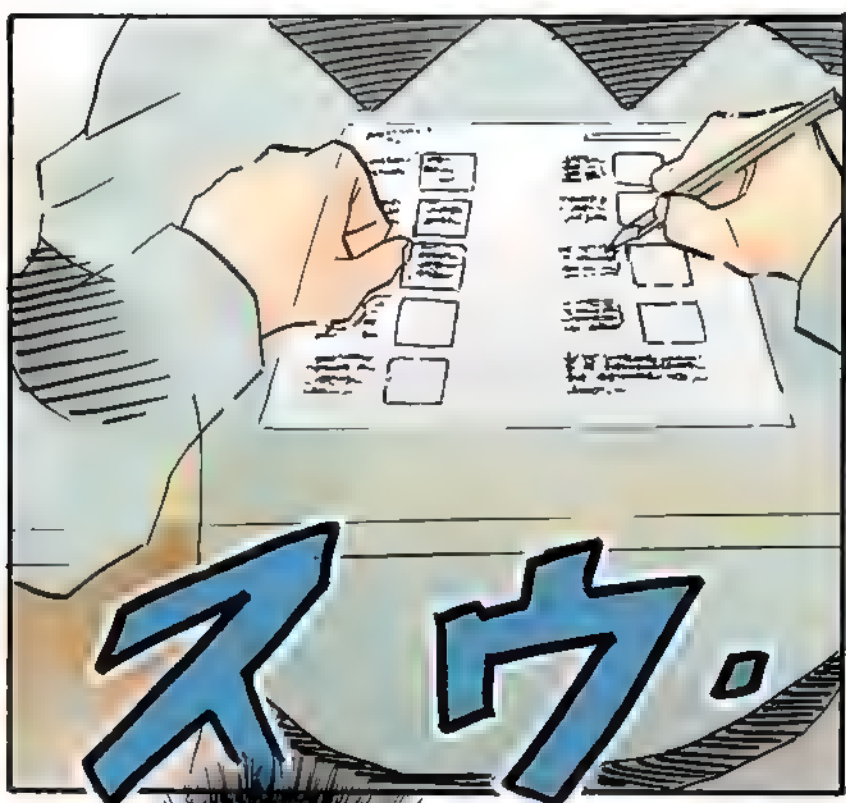




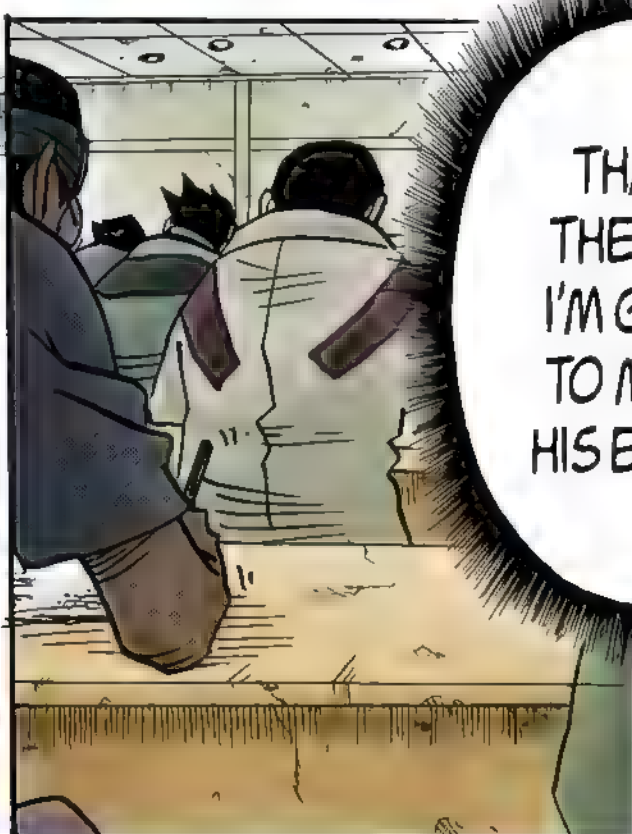




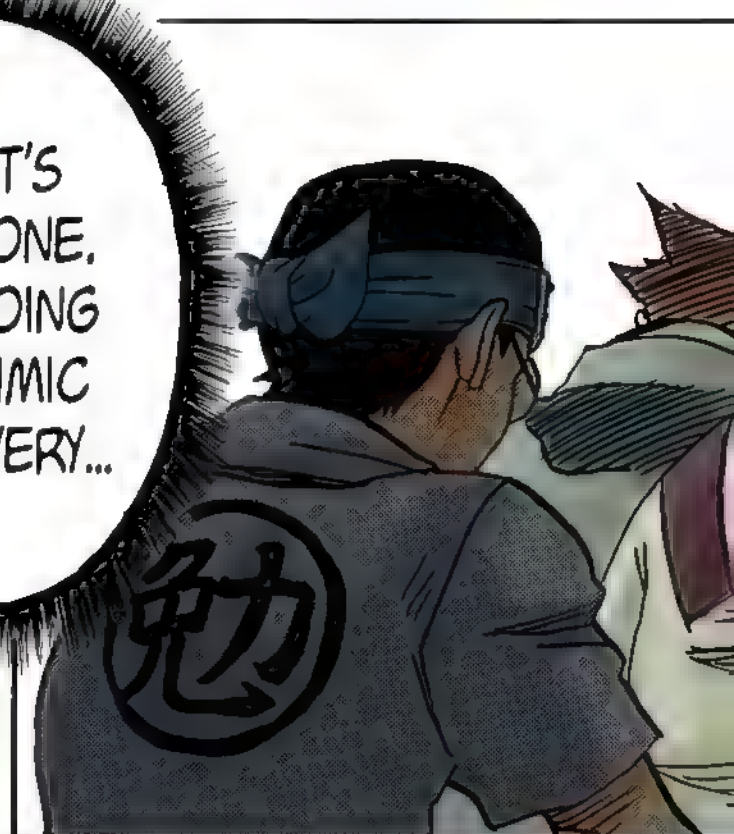
BYAKUGAN!  
THE  
ALL-SEEING  
EVIL EYE!



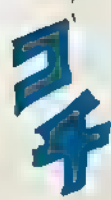
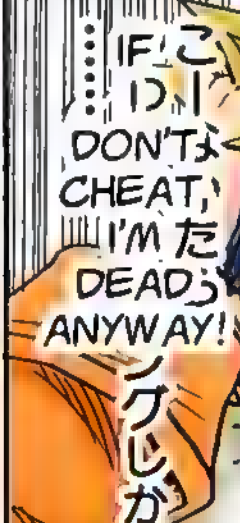
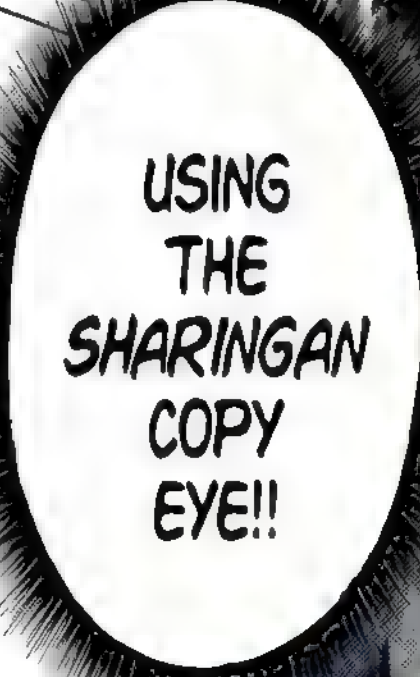
...MOVE!



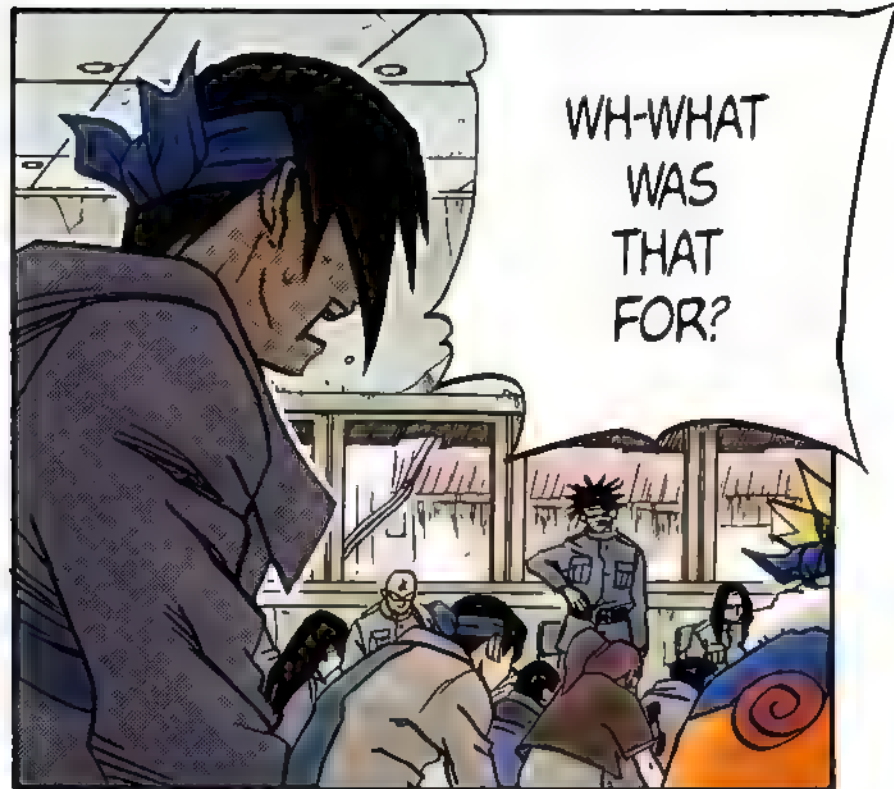
THAT'S  
THE ONE.  
I'M GOING  
TO MIMIC  
HIS EVERY...



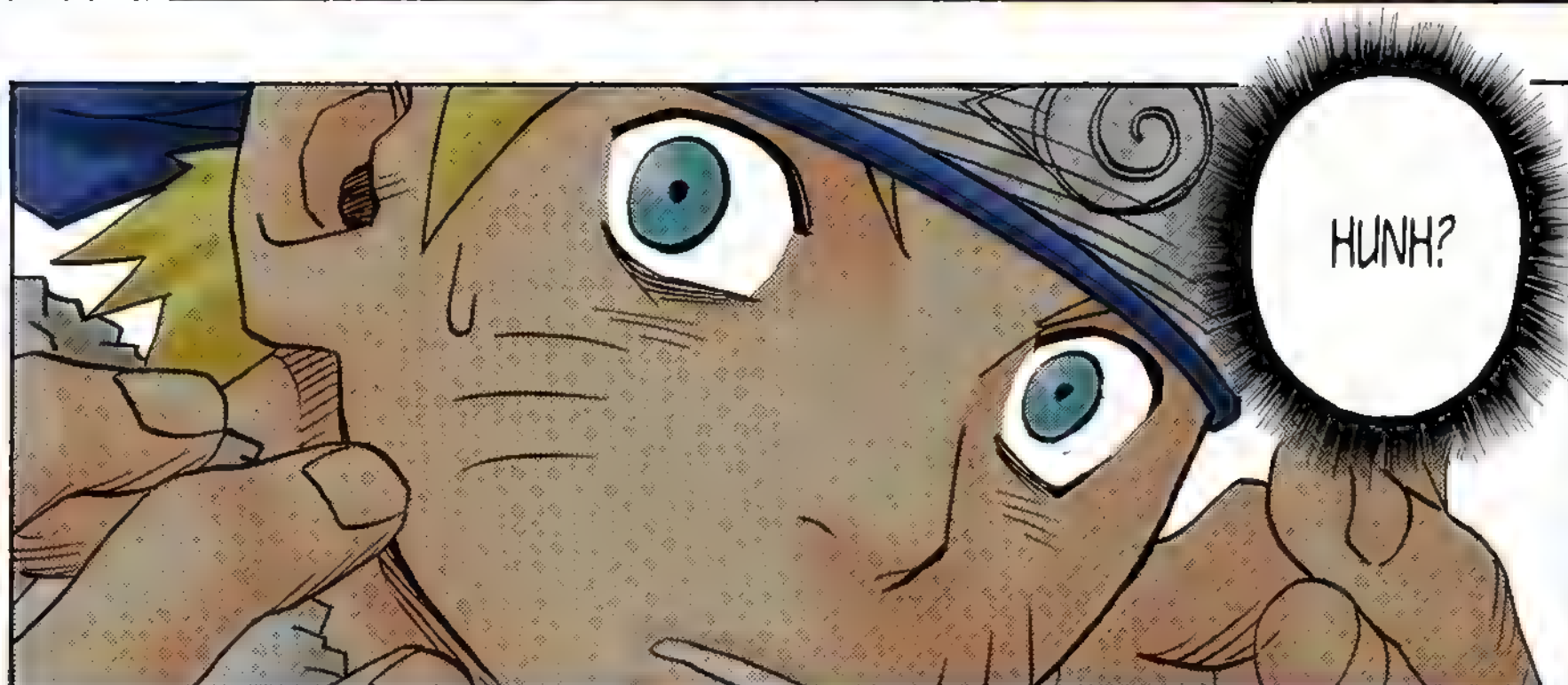
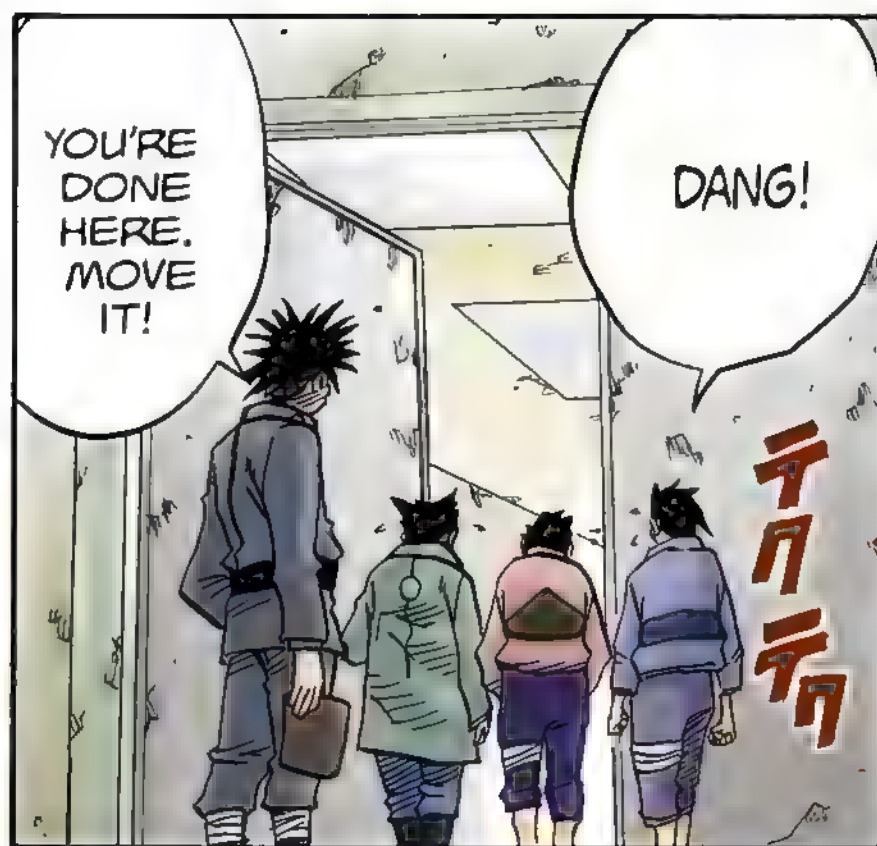
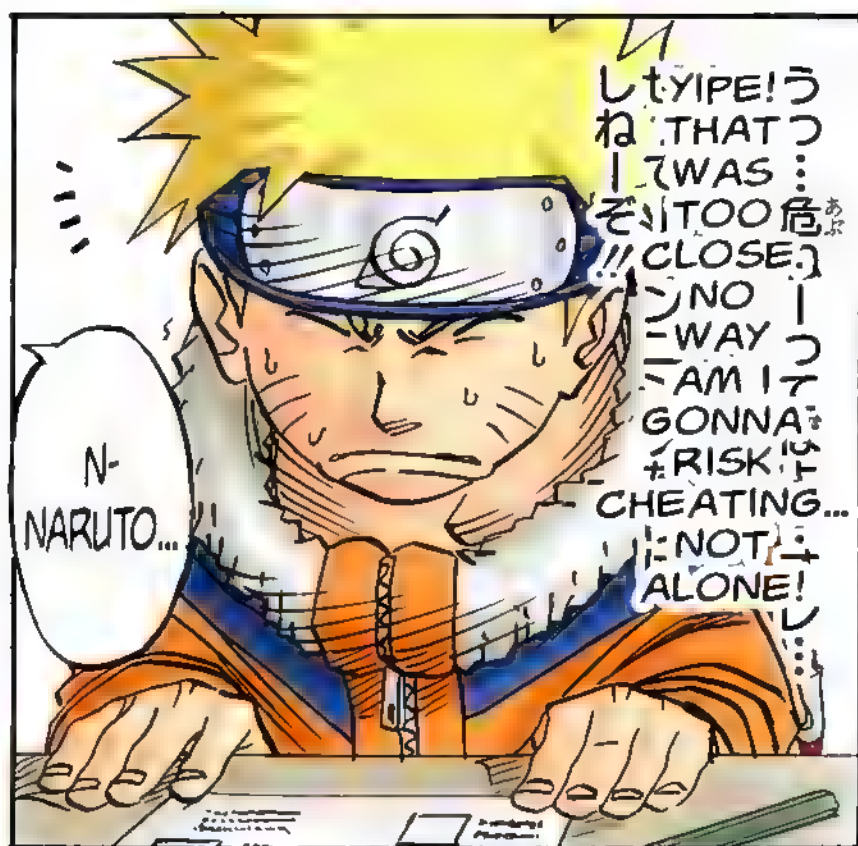
















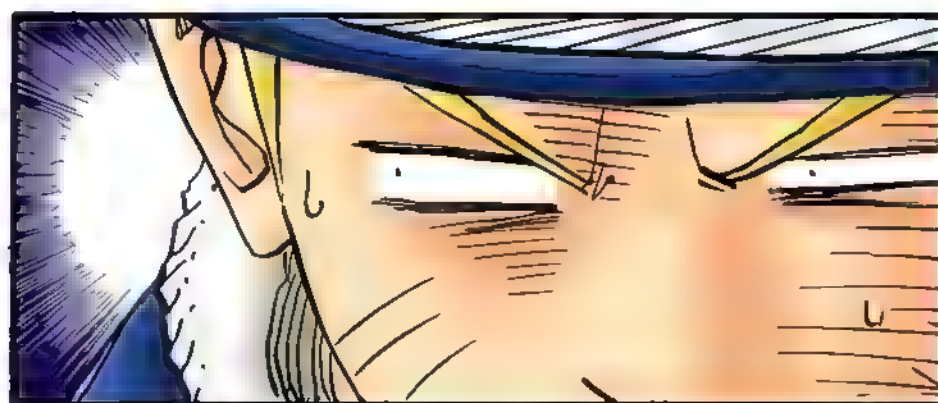
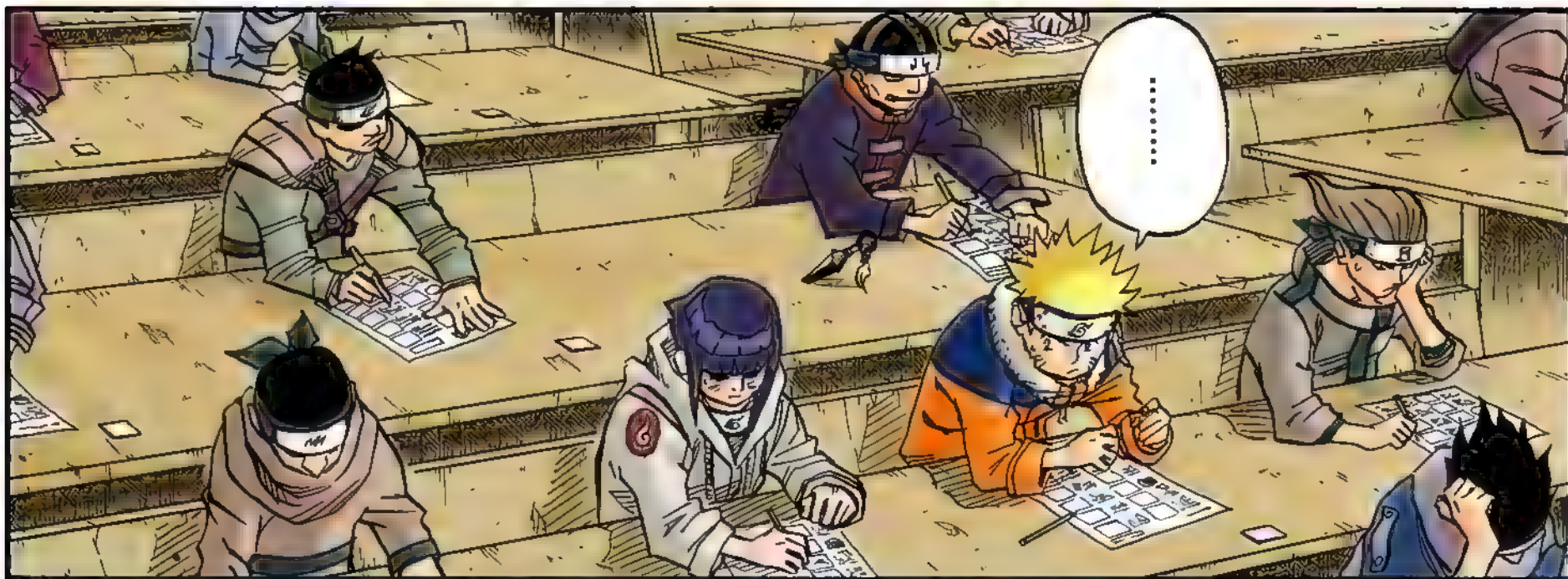




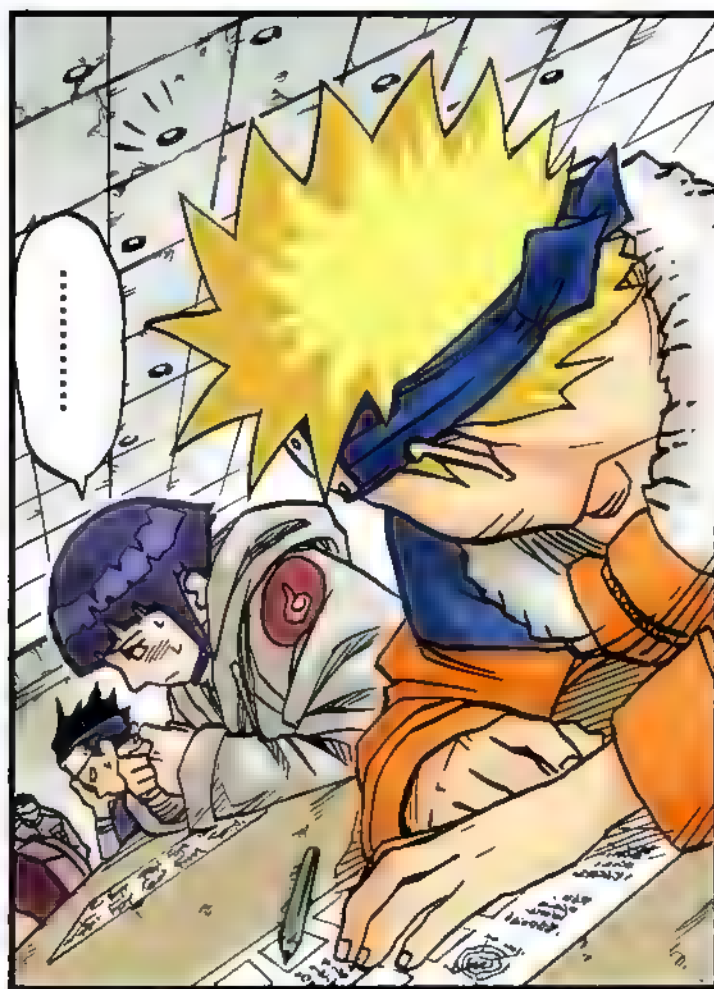
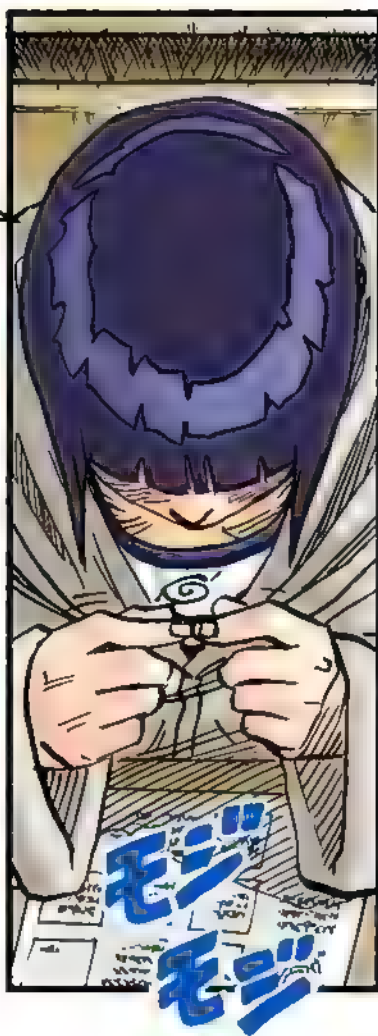
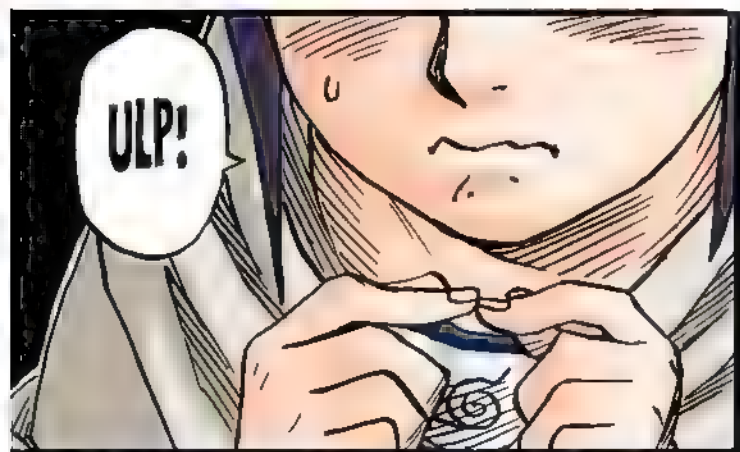
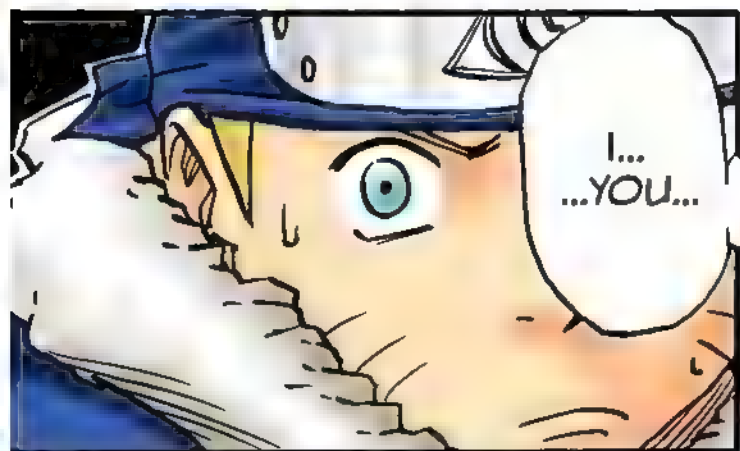
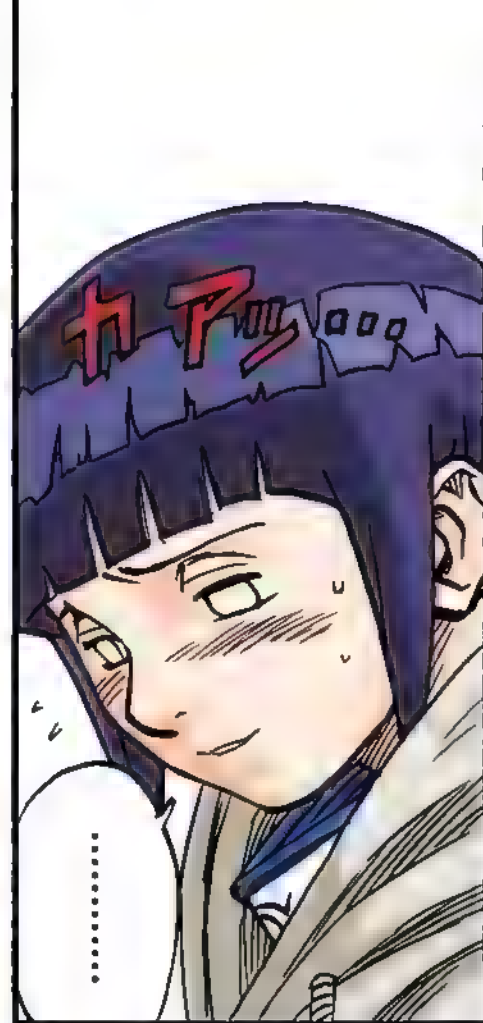
 Number 42:

To Each His Own

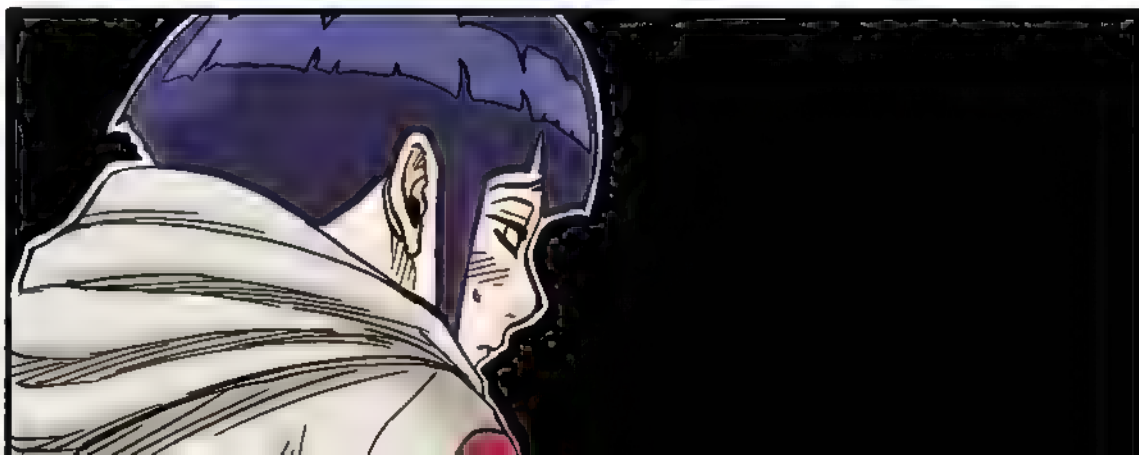
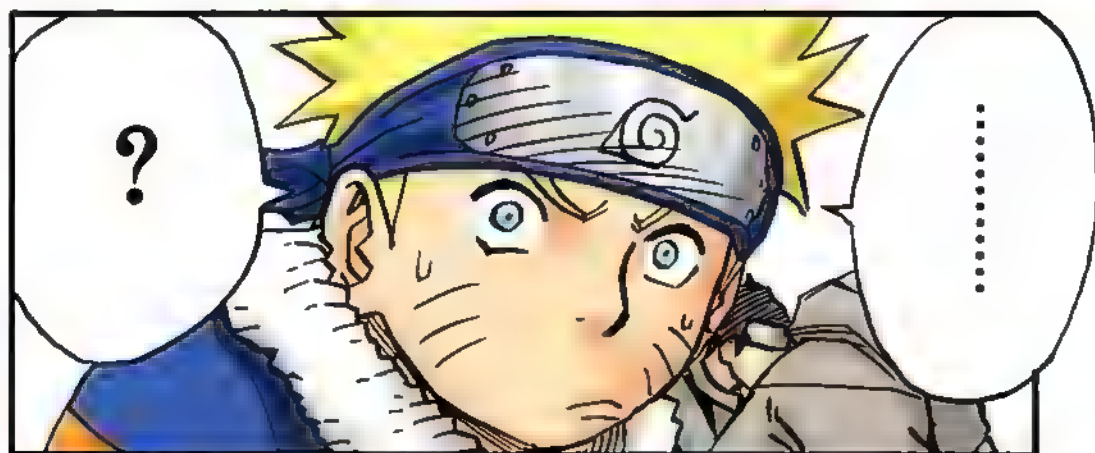
















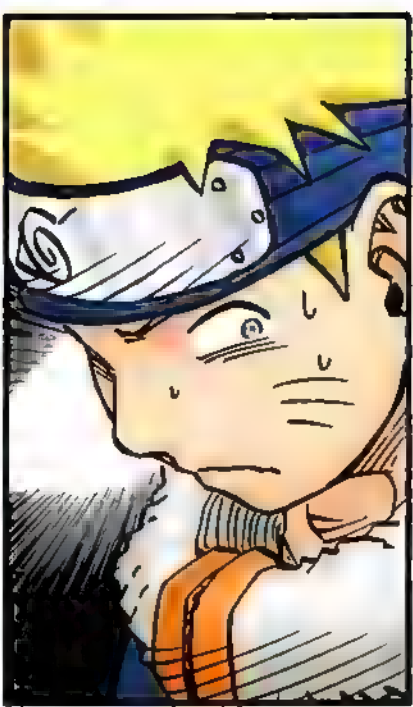
HMM-  
HH-♪  
HHMM...



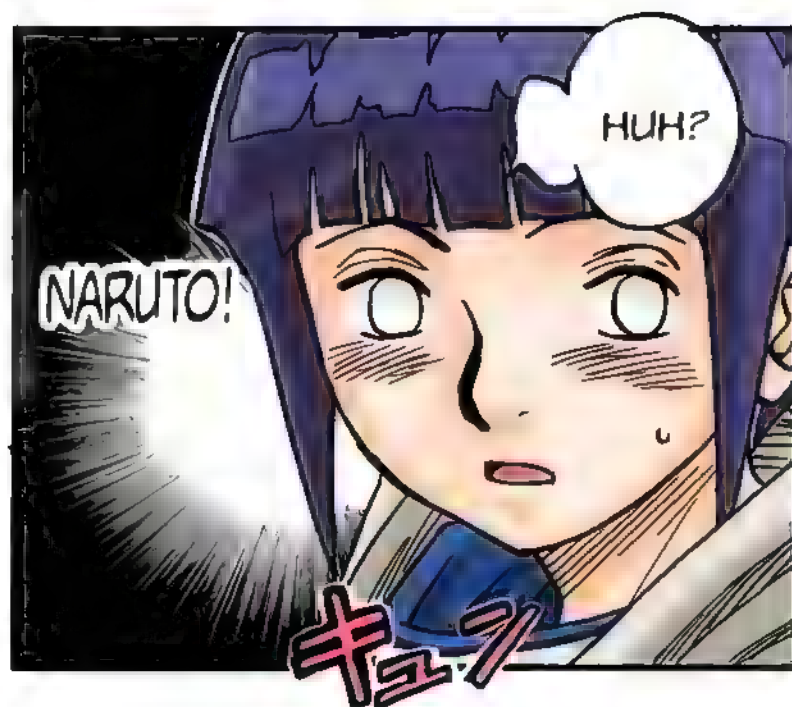
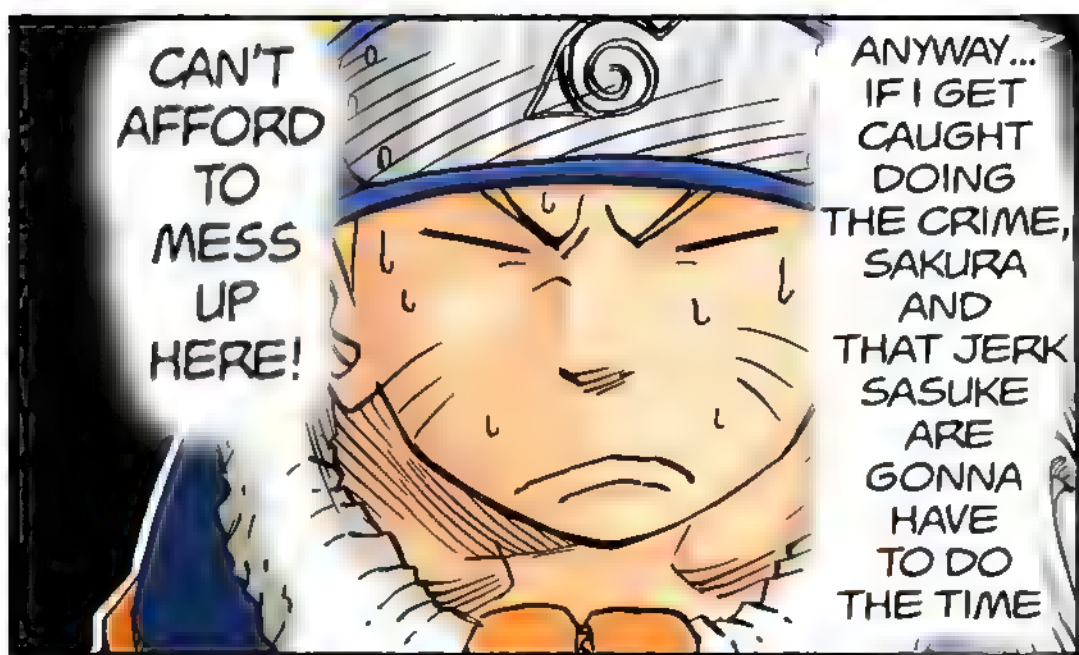
GOOD  
THING  
HINATA  
WAS  
NEXT  
TO  
ME!

THIS  
IS  
MY  
LUCKY  
DAY.

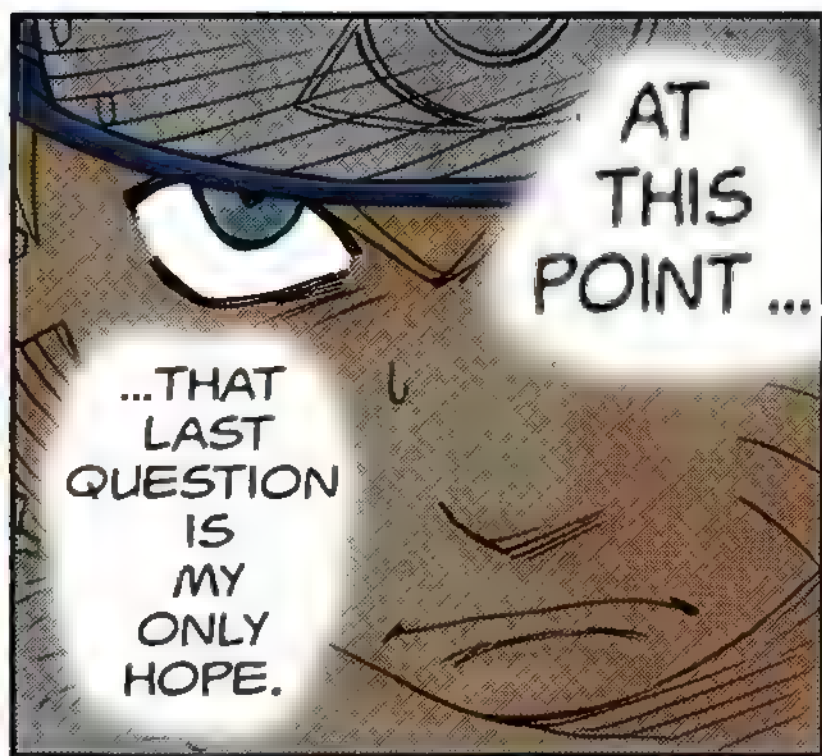
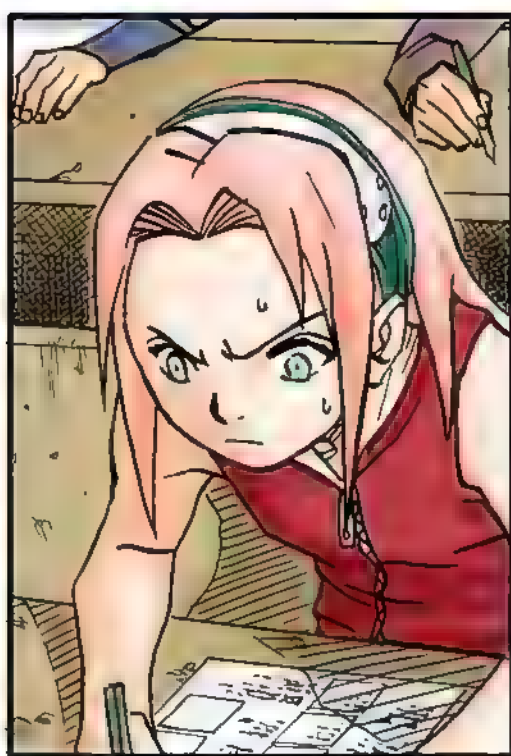
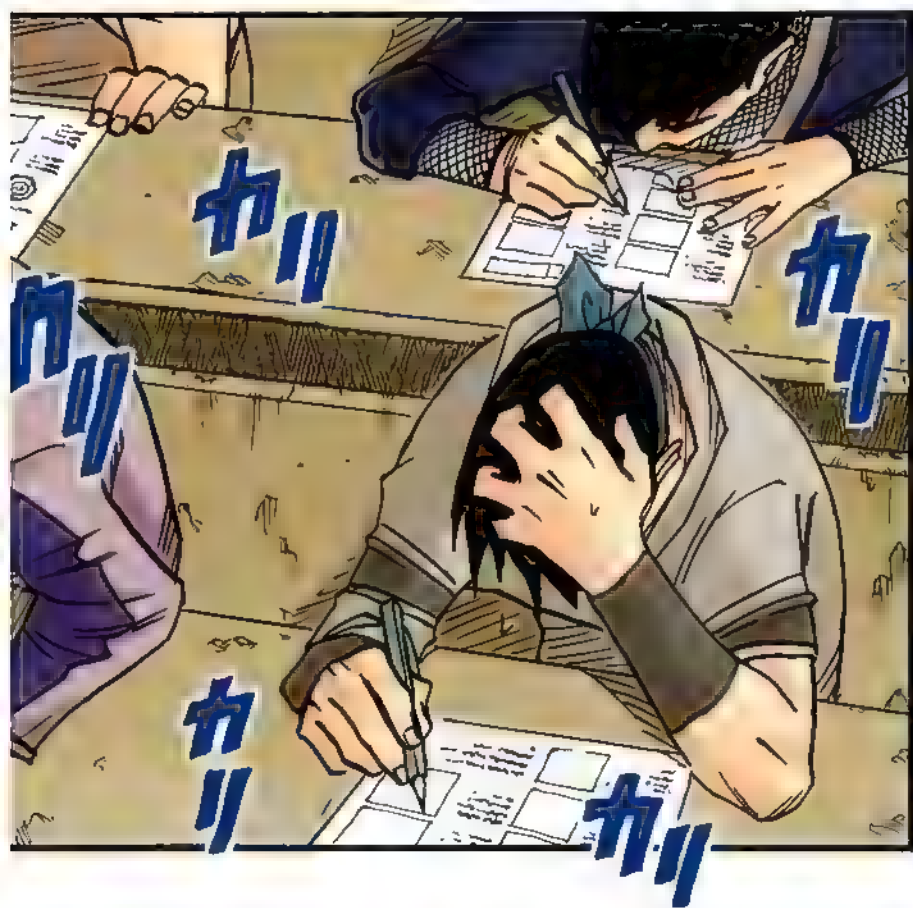
BOY!



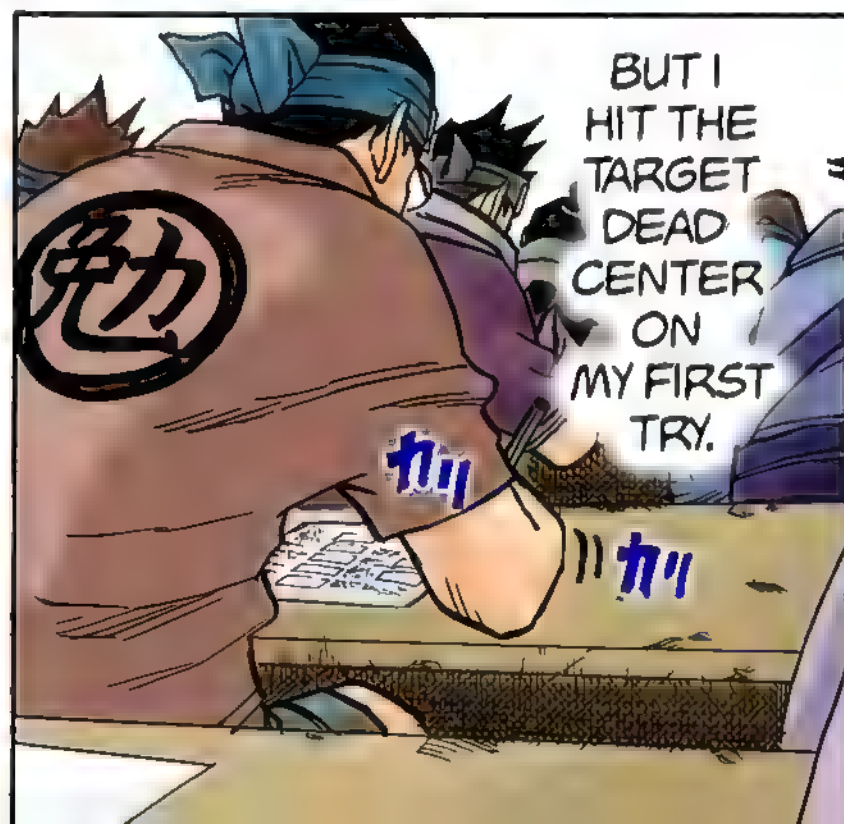
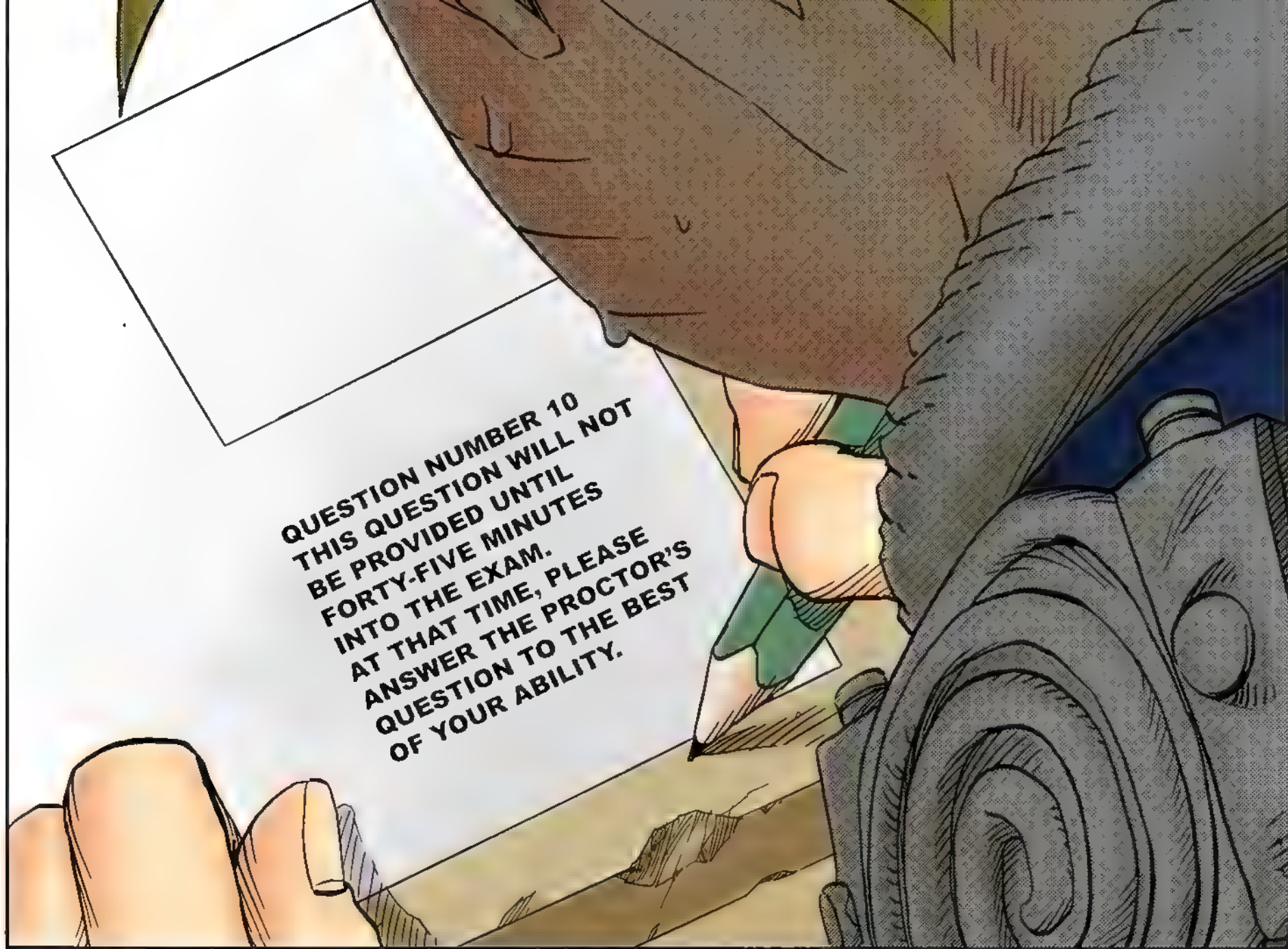










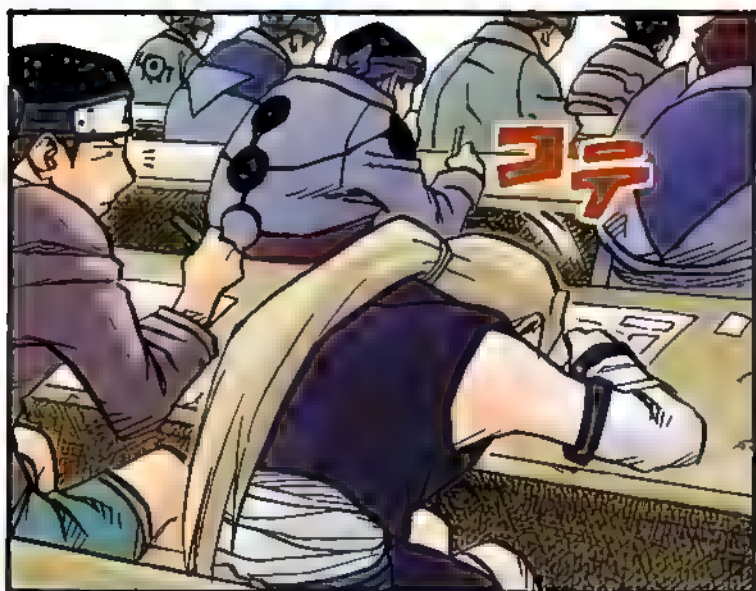




...SO  
YOU  
OUGHT  
TO FEEL  
HONORED...



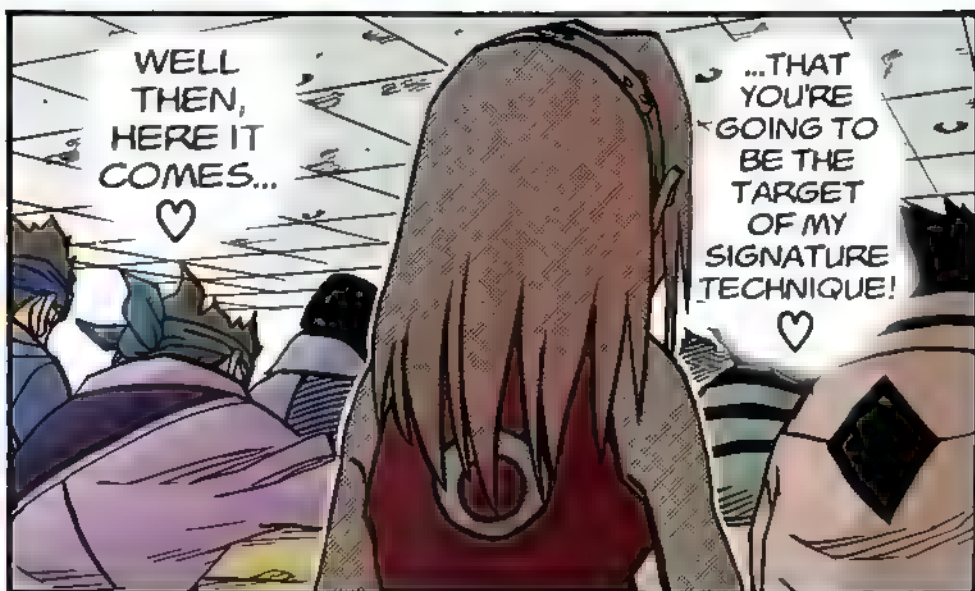
SAKURA...  
YOUR  
BROAD  
BROW AND  
BIG BRAIN  
HAVE  
EARNED MY  
RESPECT...



WELL  
THEN,  
HERE IT  
COMES...



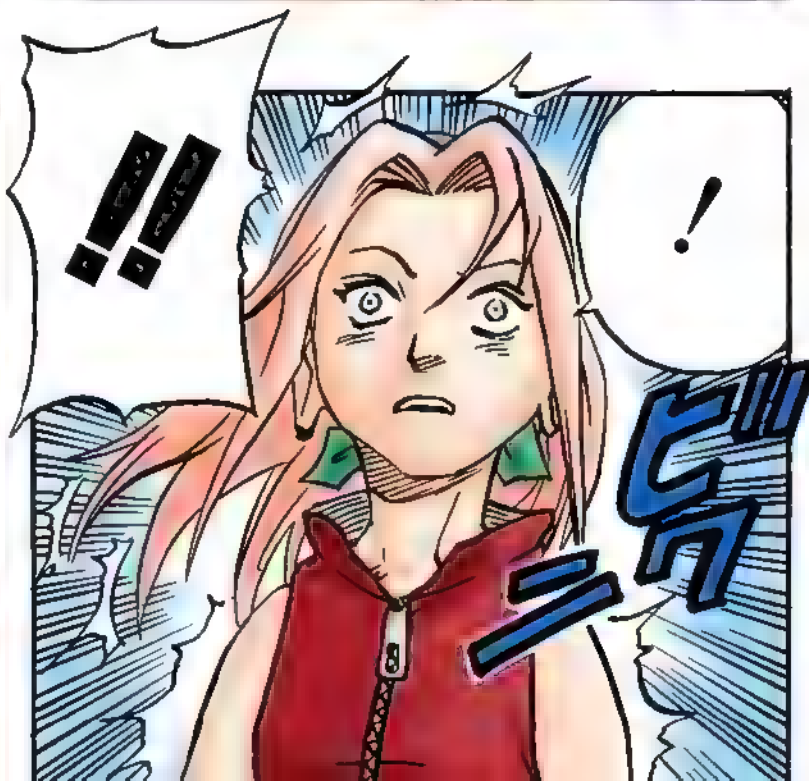
...THAT  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
BE THE  
TARGET  
OF MY  
SIGNATURE  
TECHNIQUE!



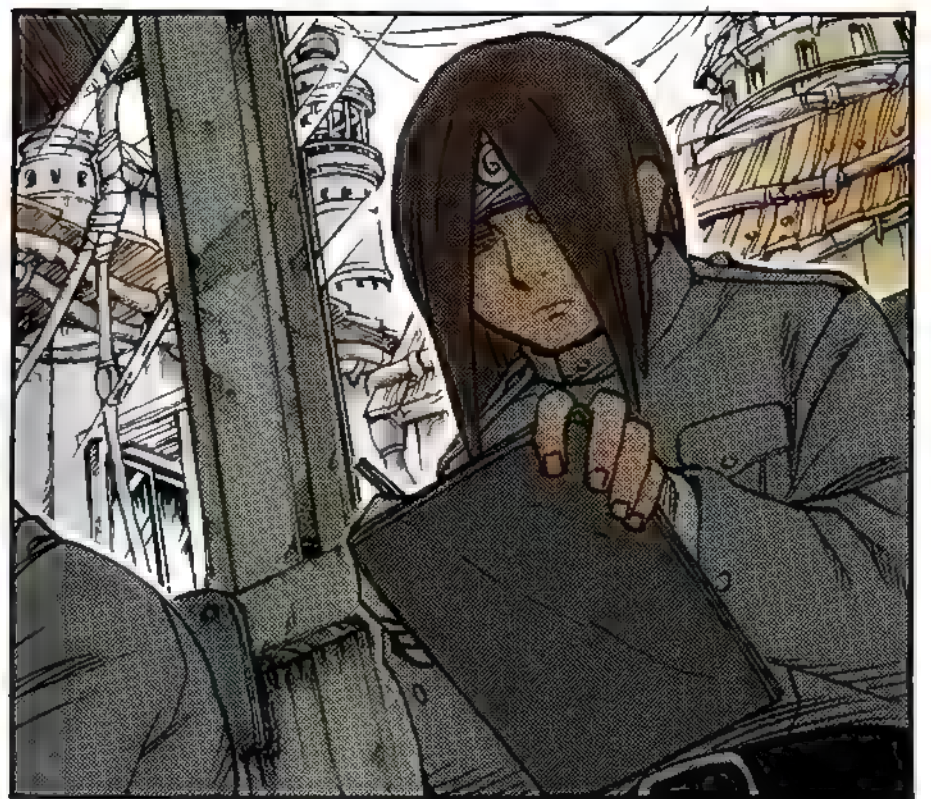
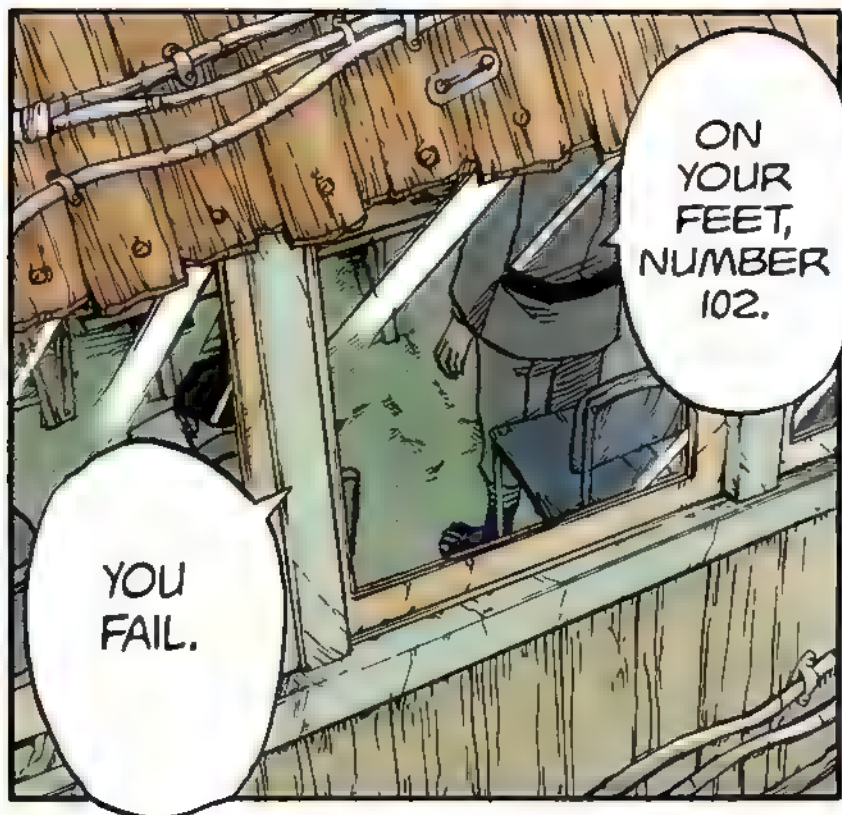
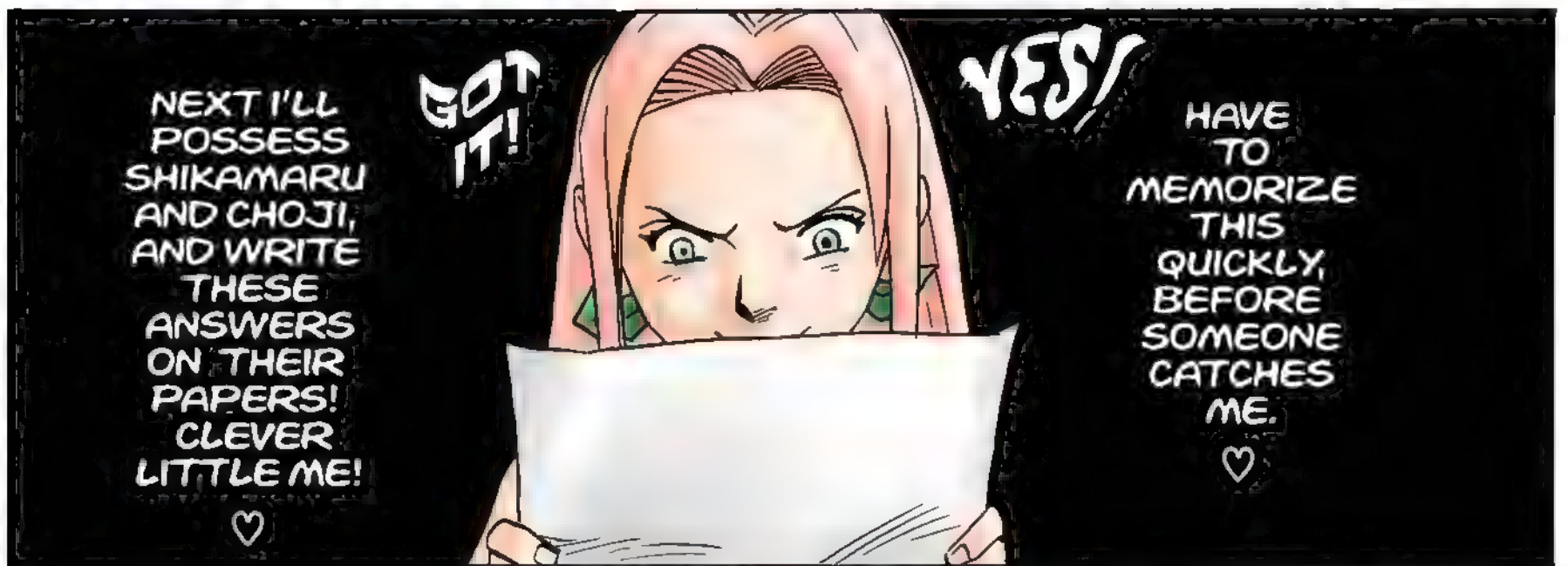
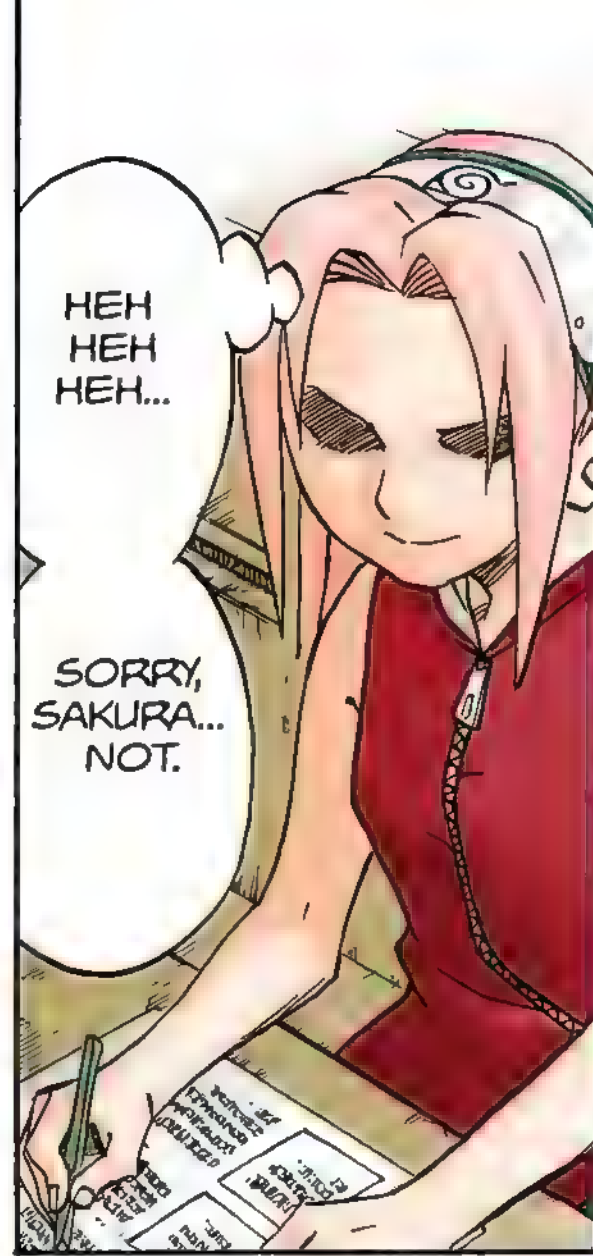
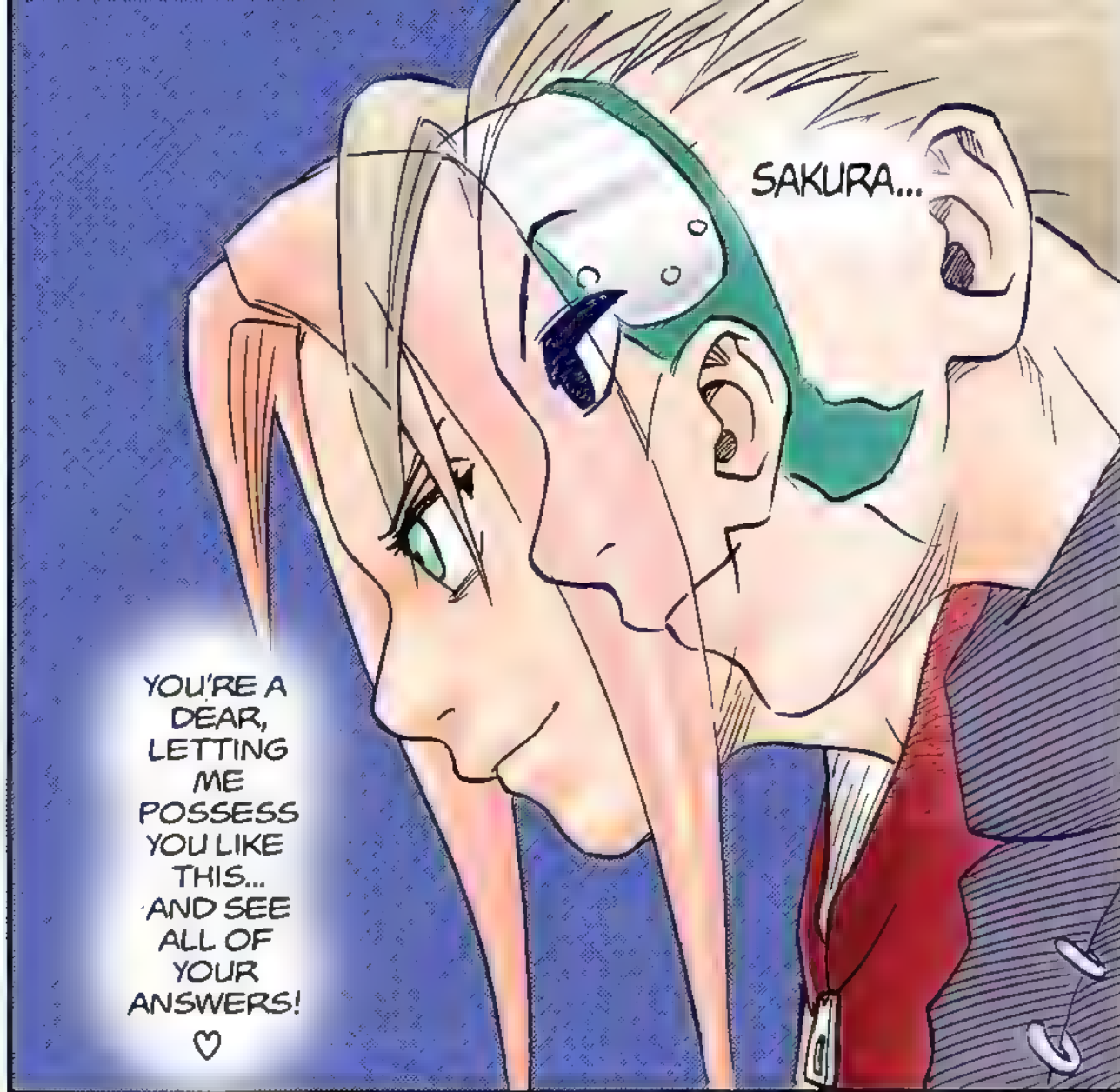
NO  
ONE CAN  
WITHSTAND  
HER WHEN SHE  
STARTS THAT  
ASTRAL-  
PROJECTION  
STUFF!

SHE  
MUST BE  
USING  
THAT  
TECHNIQUE  
OF HERS...

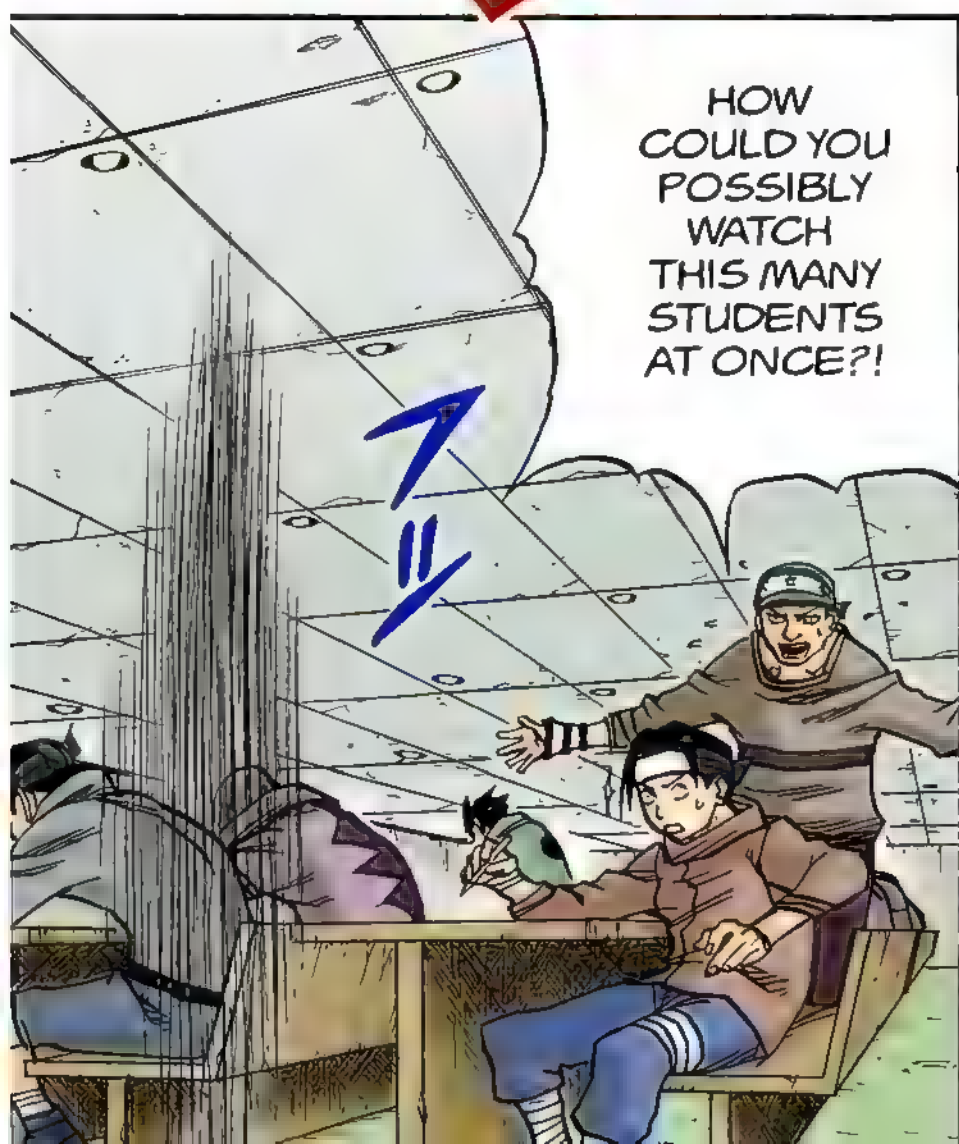
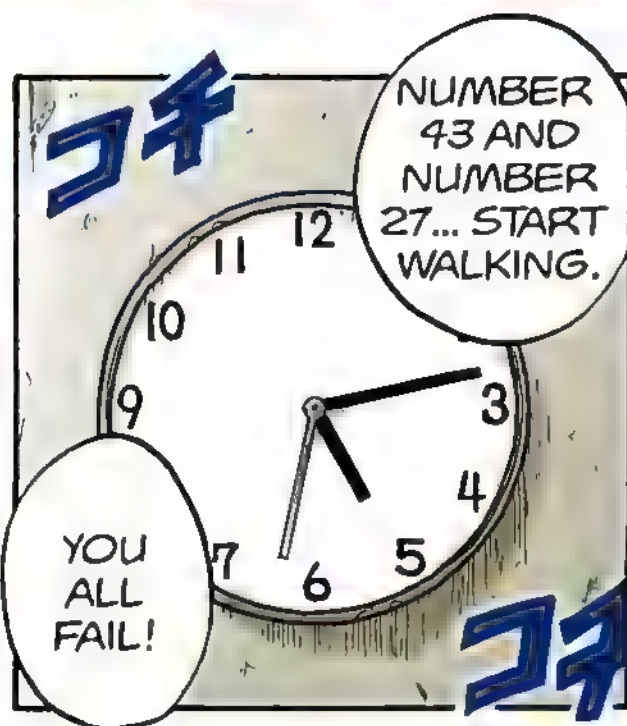
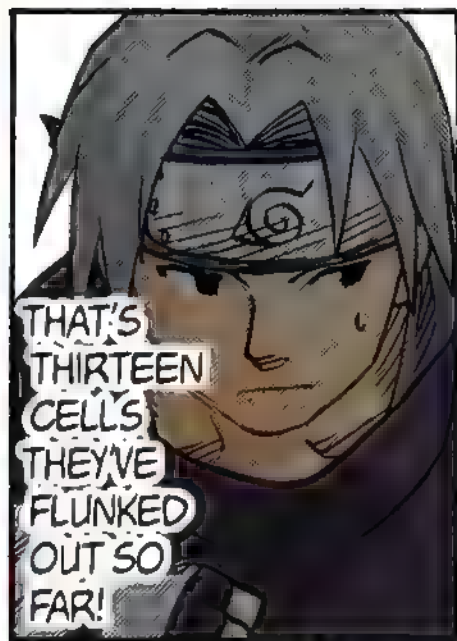
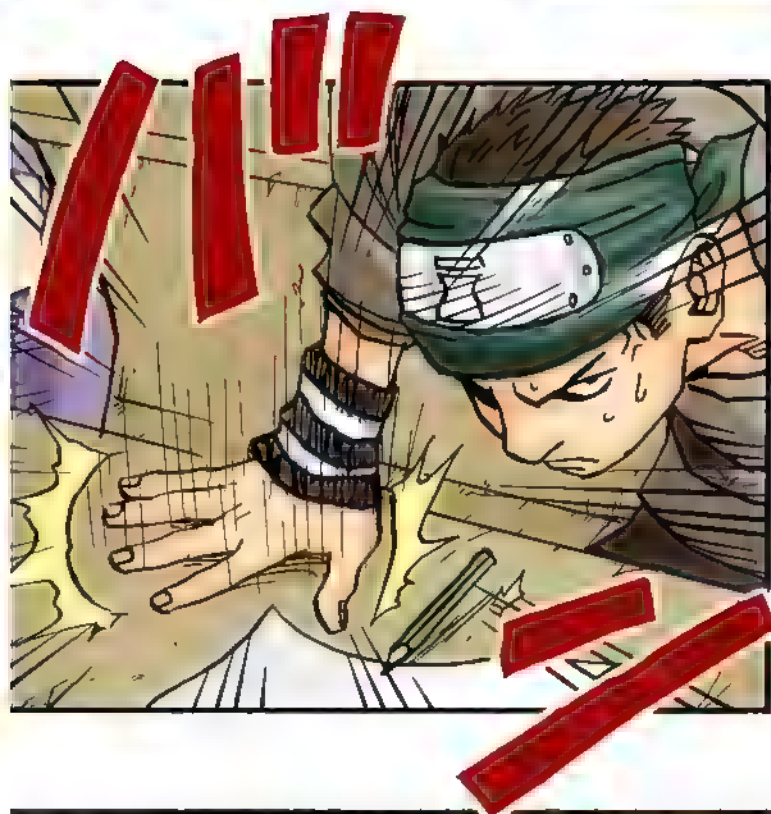
INO'S  
ASLEEP.



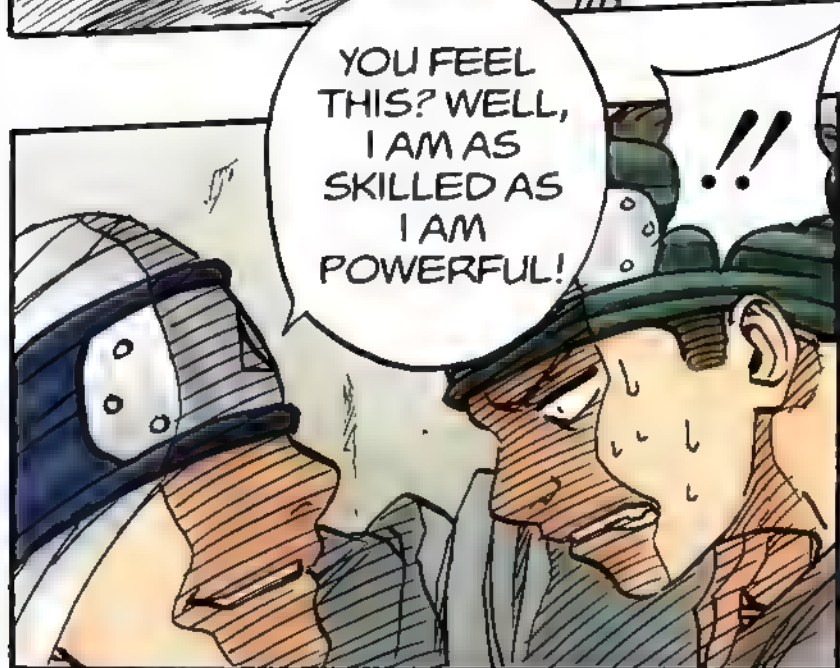












YOU FEEL THIS? WELL, I AM AS SKILLED AS I AM POWERFUL!

!!

LISTEN UP AND LISTEN GOOD. WE PROCTORS ARE THE ELITE. EVEN IN A GROUP AS SKILLED AS THE ONE GATHERED HERE TODAY, WE ARE FAR AND AWAY THE BEST. WE MISS NOTHING!

OW...

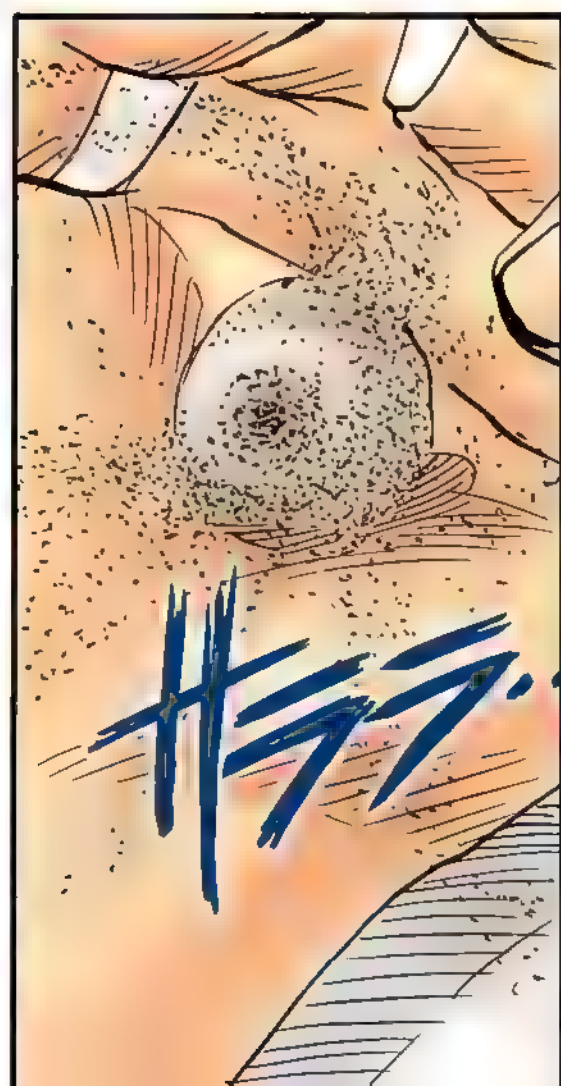
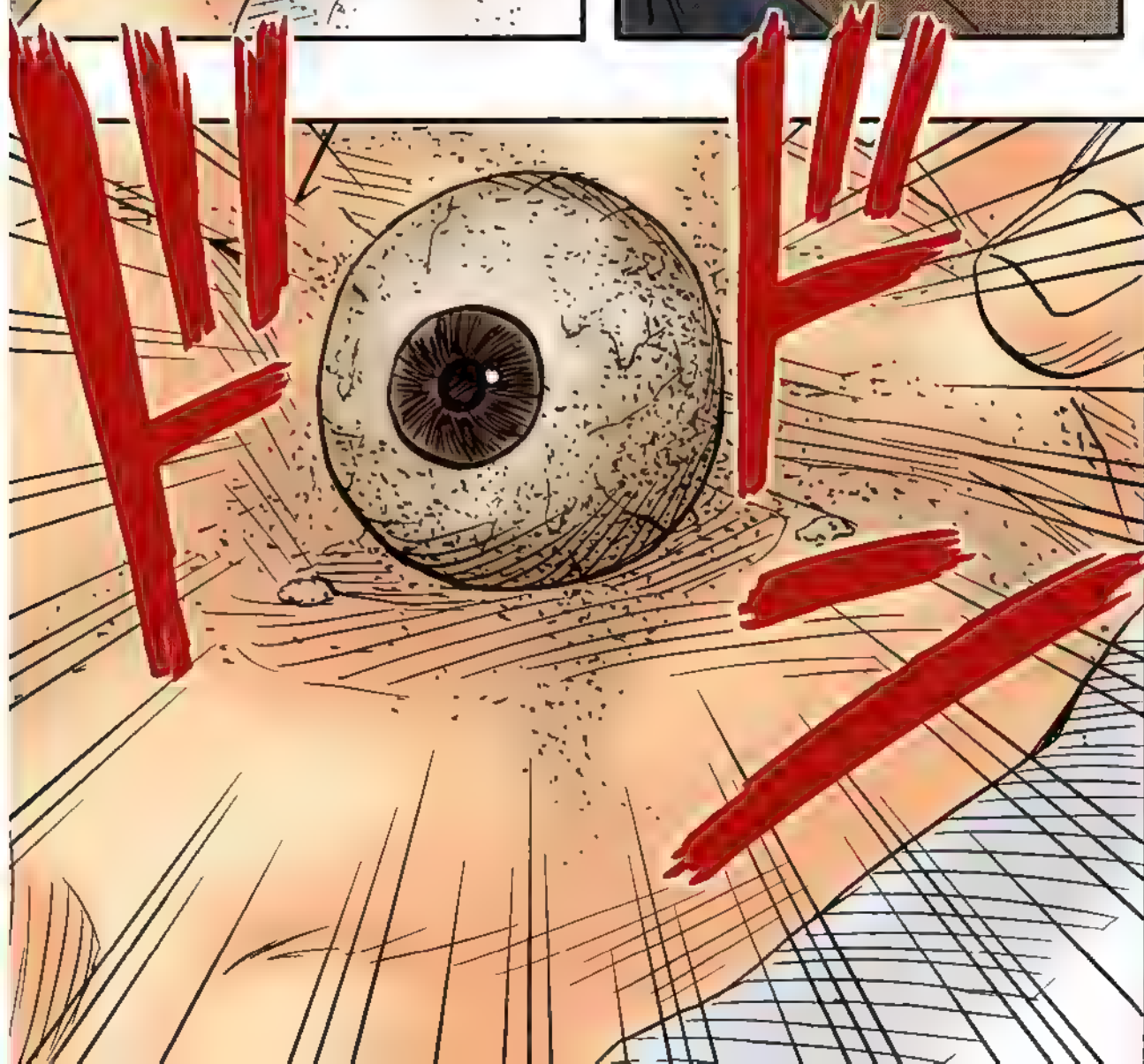
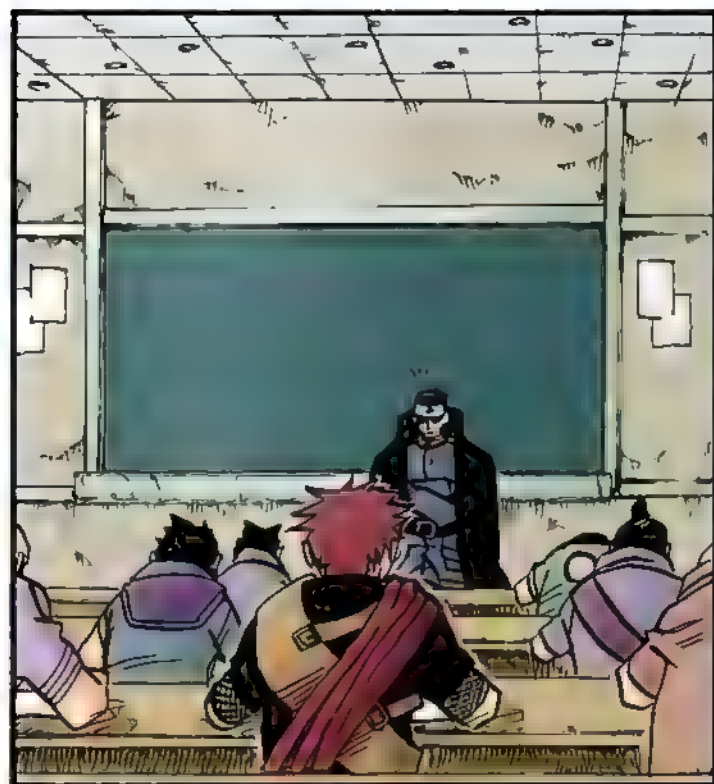
!!!

YOU GOT THAT, KIDS?



GULP!





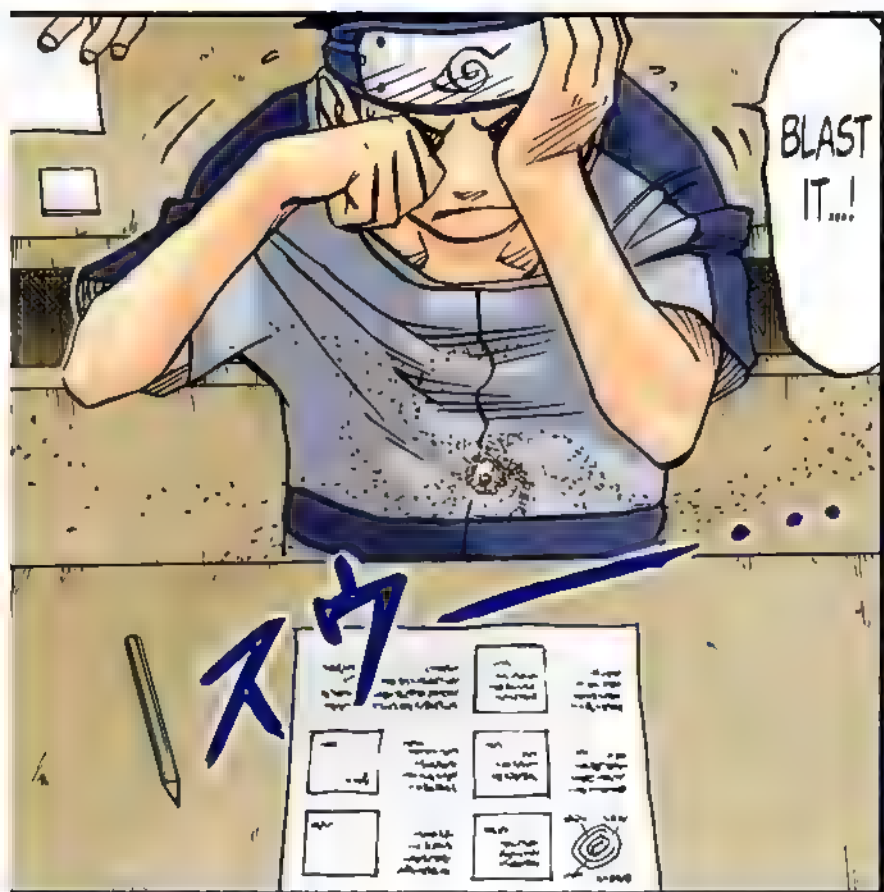
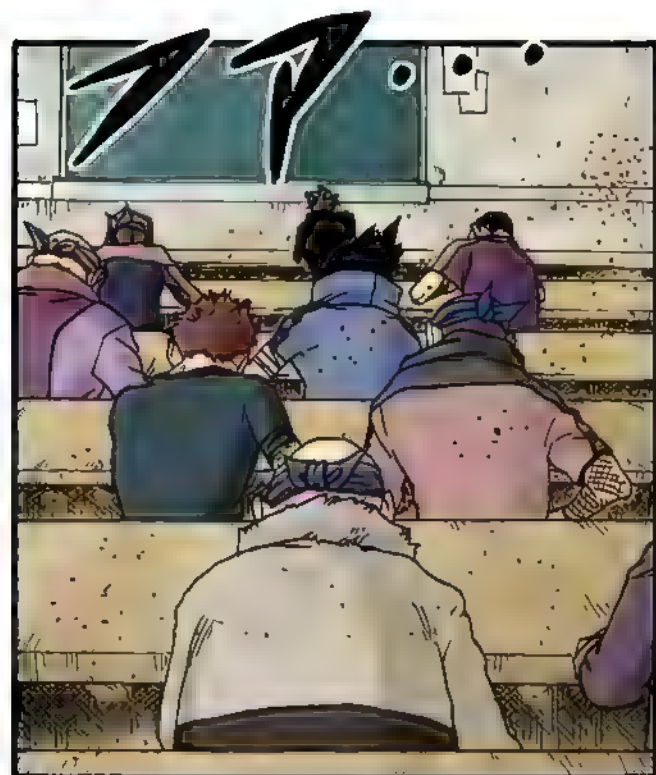
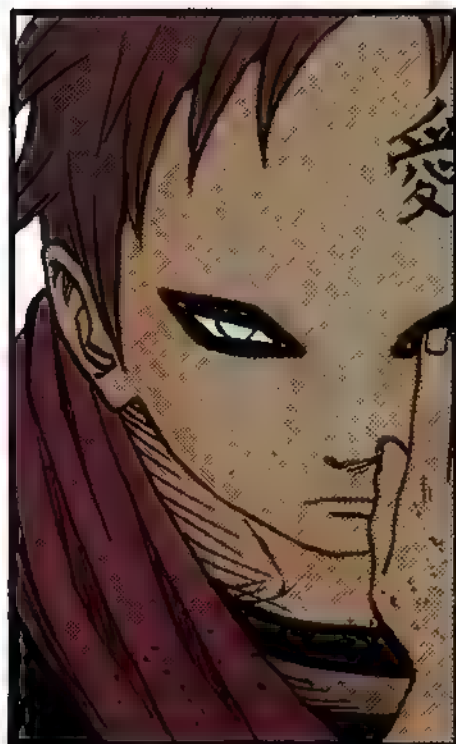




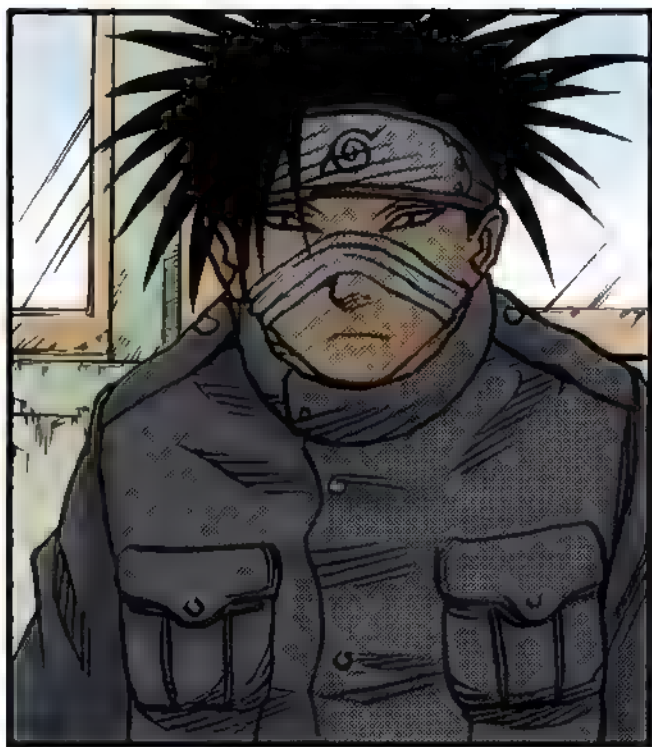
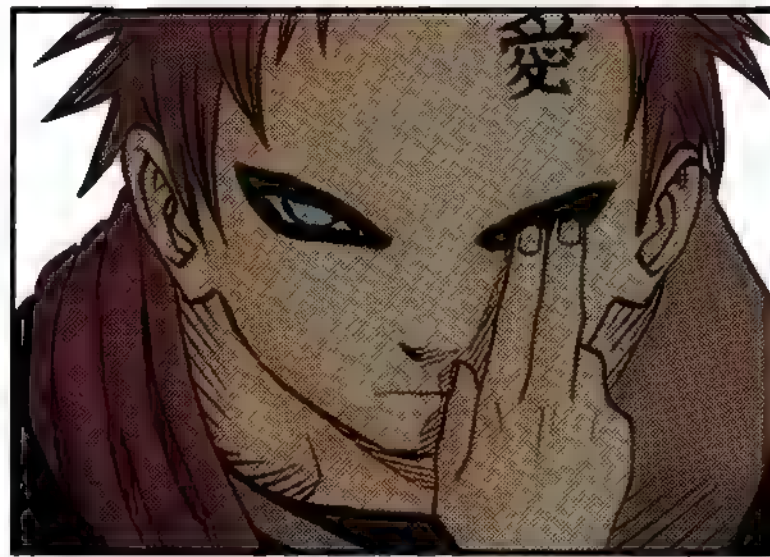
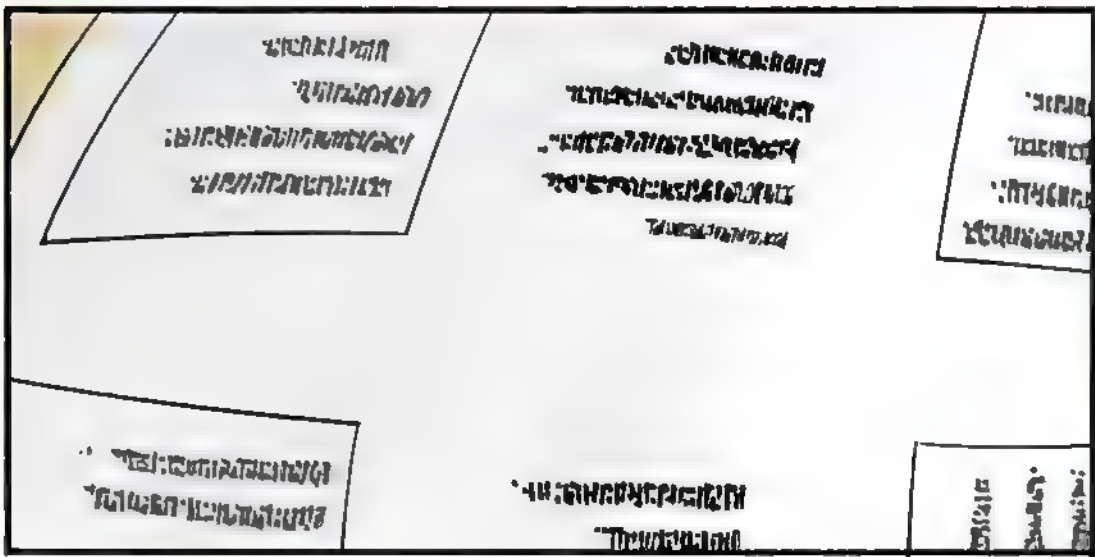
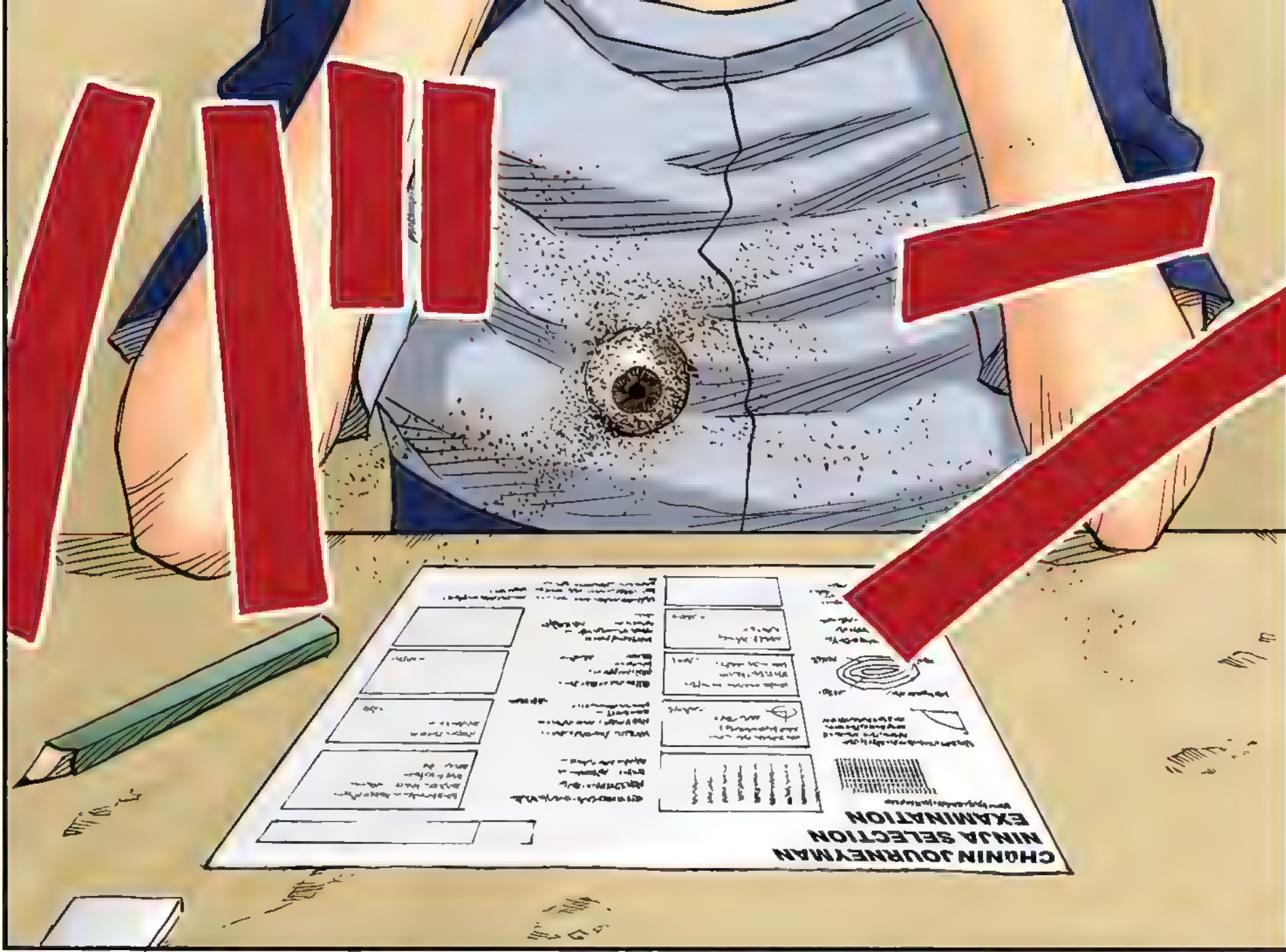
MY OPTIC  
NERVE IS  
RECON-  
NECTED

OPEN-  
ING MY  
THIRD  
EYE!!!

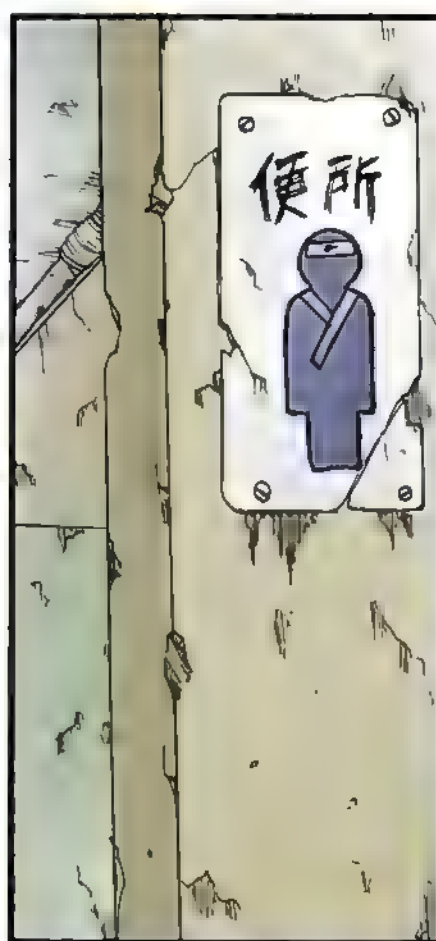
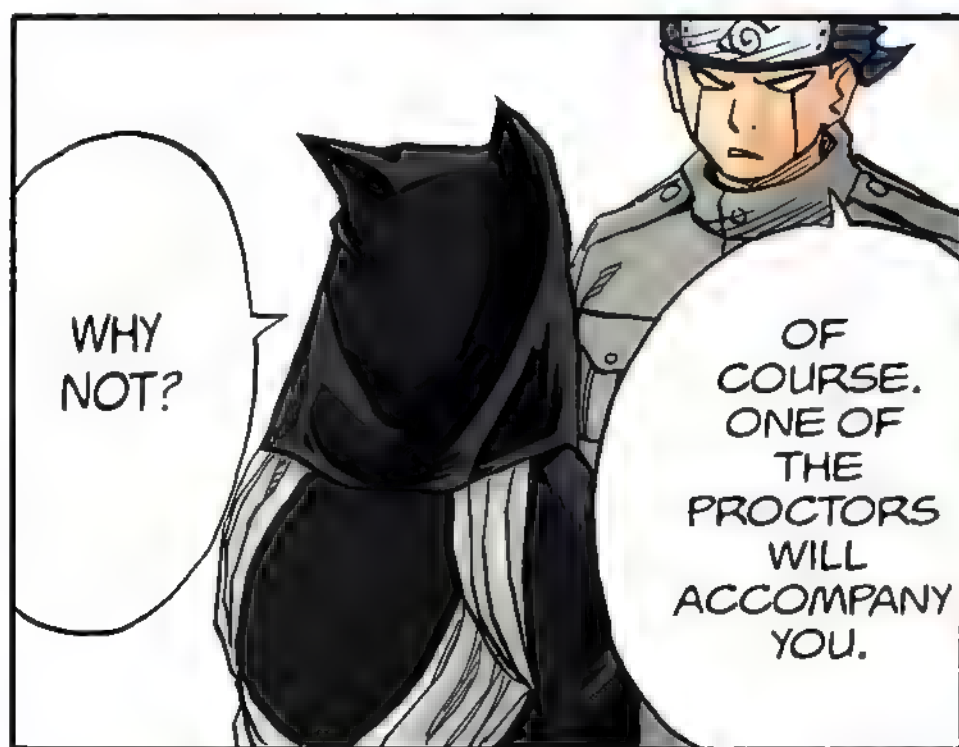
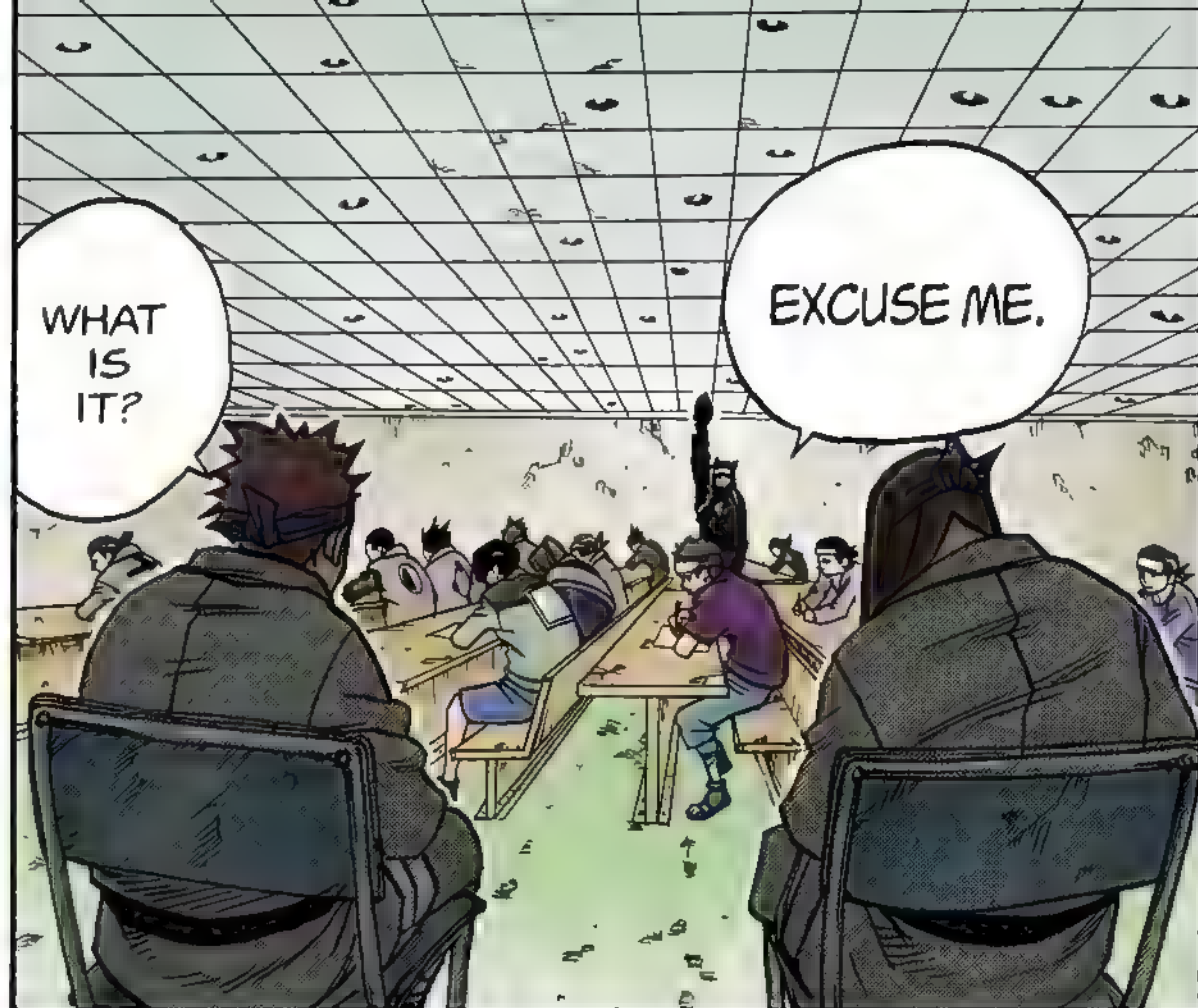
















NICE GOING, SCARECROW



PRETTY SAD!

AND THEY NEVER EVEN NOTICED THAT THERE'S BEEN ONE EXTRA PROCTOR THIS WHOLE TIME!



FORTY-FIVE MINUTES HAVE PASSED. THE TIME HAS COME.

NOW THAT WE'VE WEEDED OUT THE WORST OF THE SLACKERS...

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION.

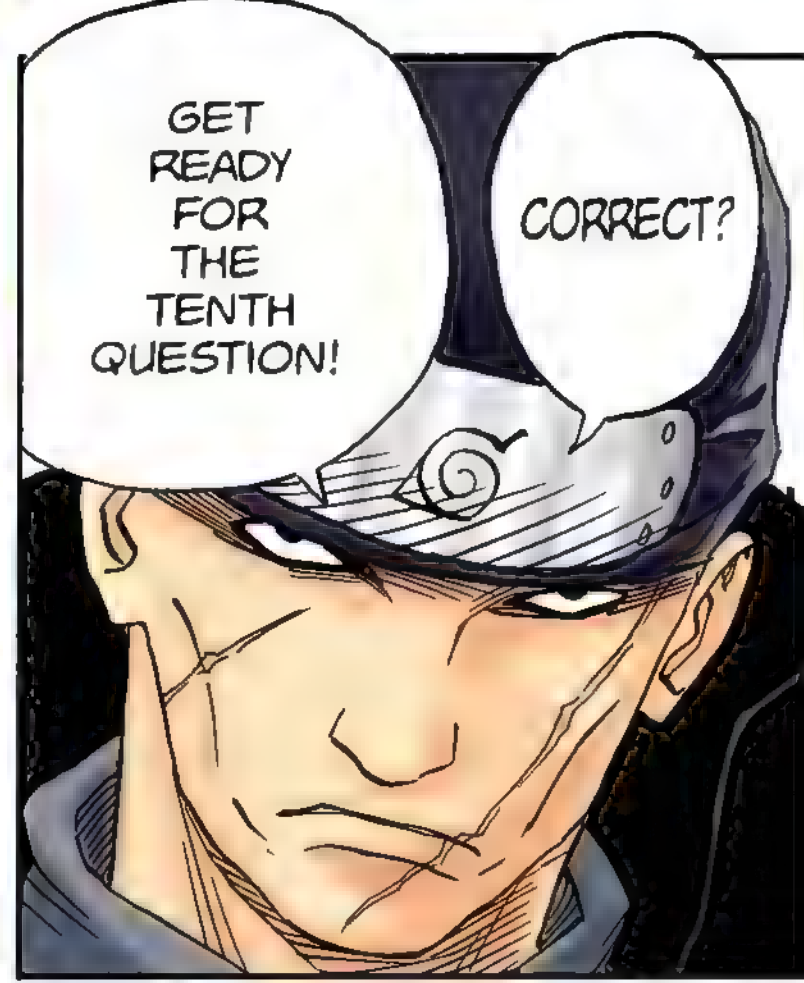


...NOW THEN, GIVE ME ALL THE ANSWERS IN ORDER, STARTING WITH NUMBER ONE. HEH HEH HEH...

SIGH...



HERE IT COMES!!



GET READY FOR THE TENTH QUESTION!

CORRECT?





 Number 43:

# The Tenth Question





JUST ONE  
MORE  
MOUNTAIN  
TO CLIMB!



MR.  
BIG  
SHOT...  
HA!



I'M  
RISKING  
IT  
ALL  
ON  
ONE  
ROLL  
OF THE  
DICE.



...I'M  
ADDING  
ONE  
MORE  
NEW  
RULE.

AND  
BEFORE  
WE GET  
TO THE  
QUESTION  
ITSELF...

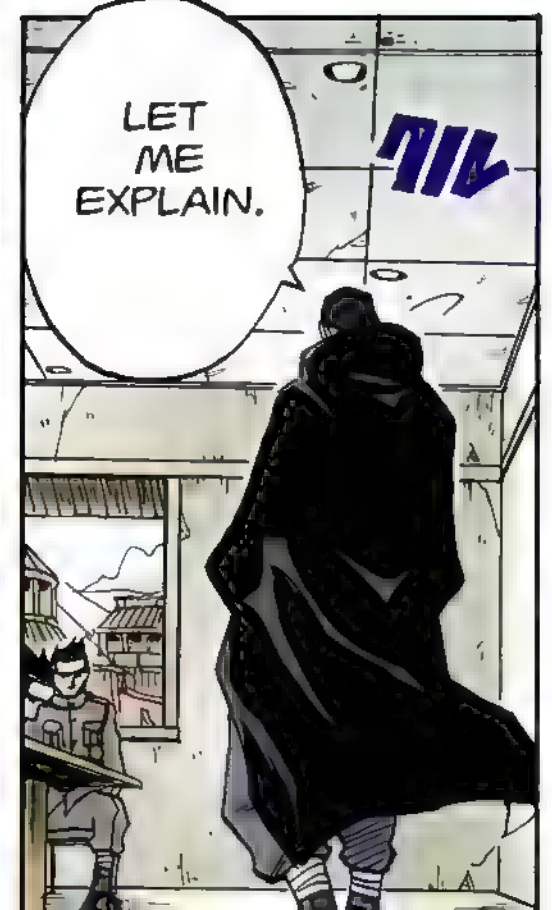
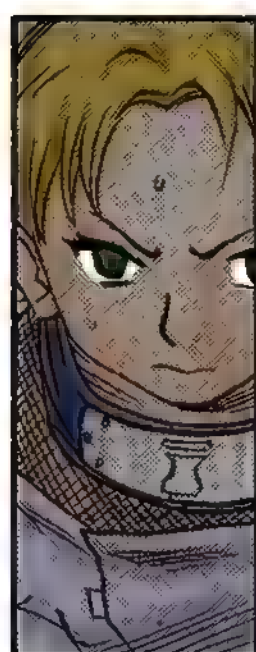
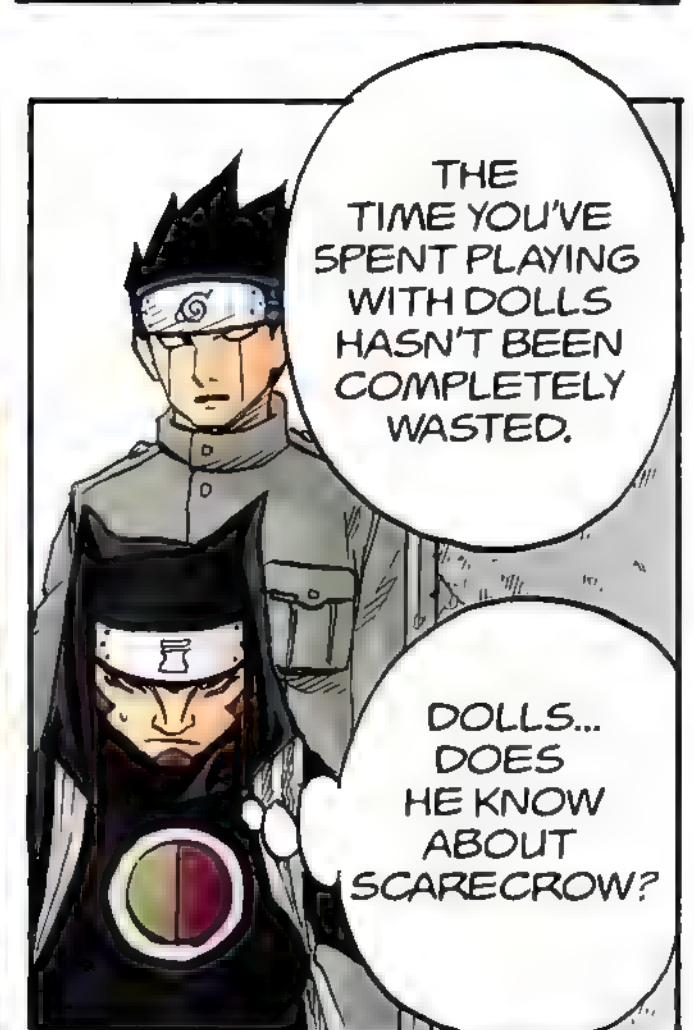
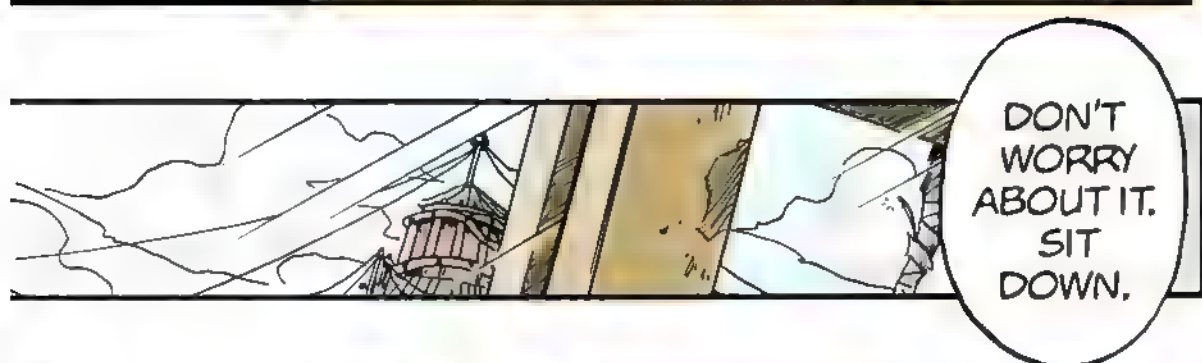
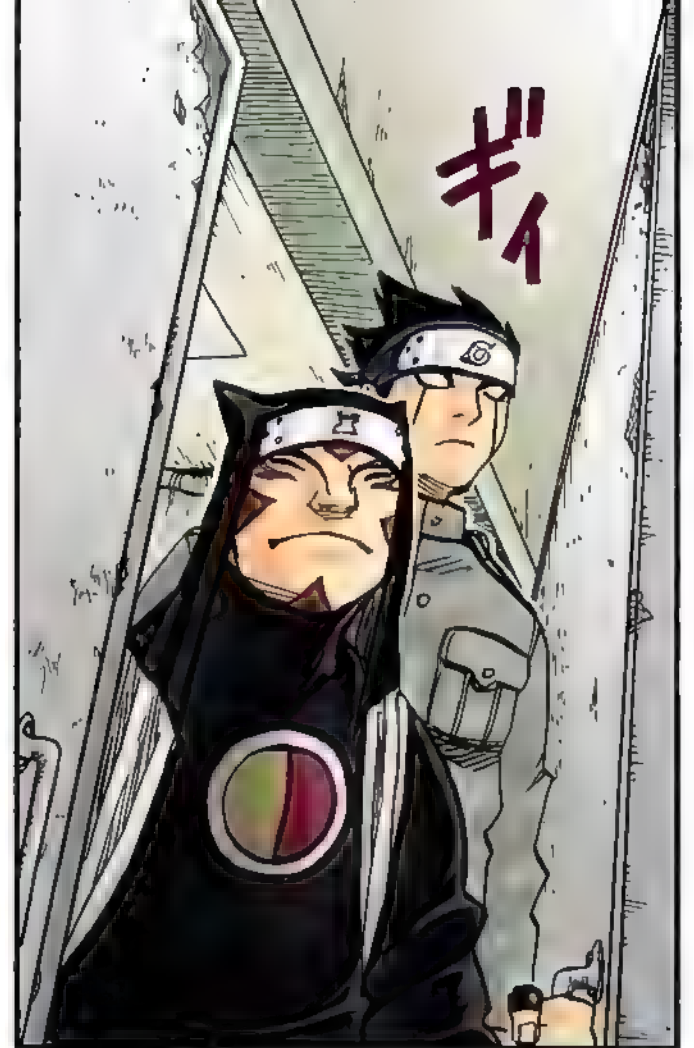
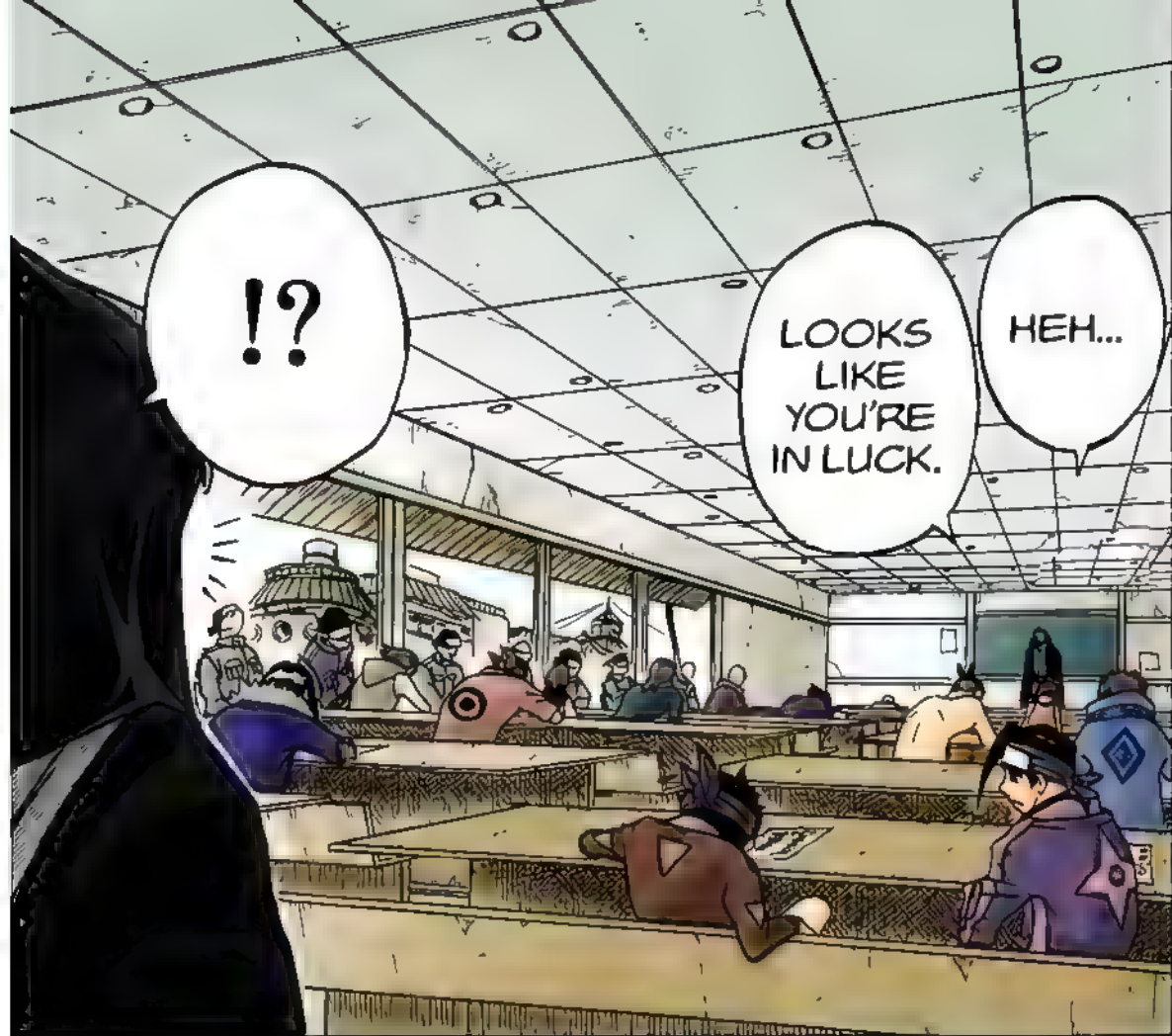


I WAS  
SUPPOSED  
TO GET YOUR  
FIRST NINE  
ANSWERS  
BEFORE THEY  
GAVE US THE  
TENTH  
QUESTION.

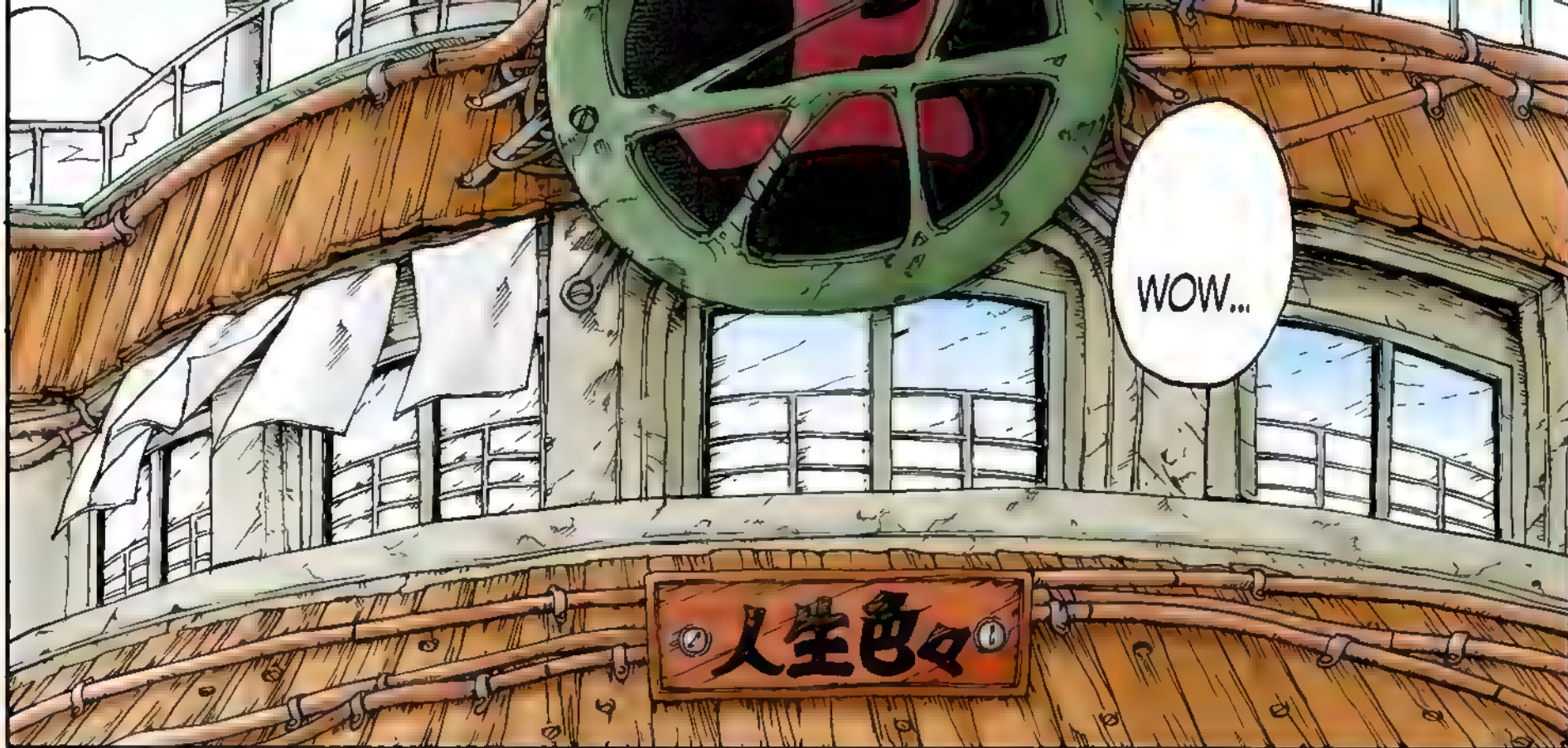
YOU  
BETTER  
HURRY  
BACK,  
KANKURO!







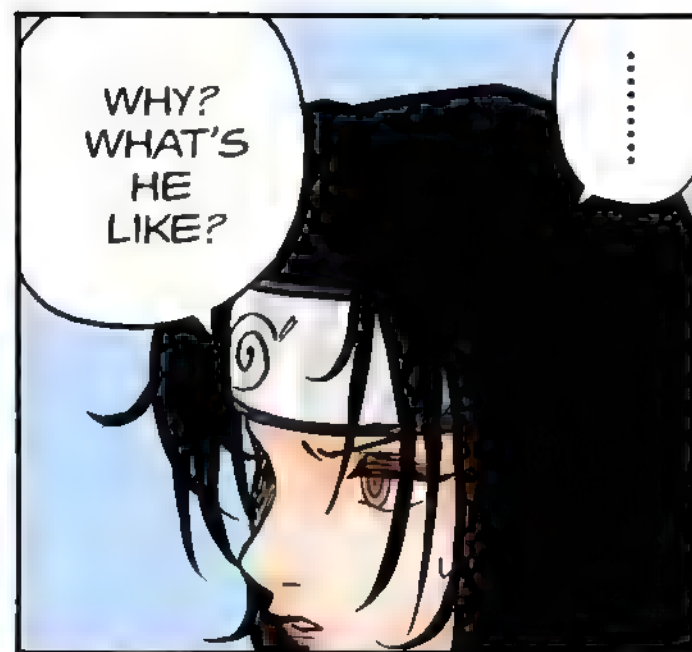




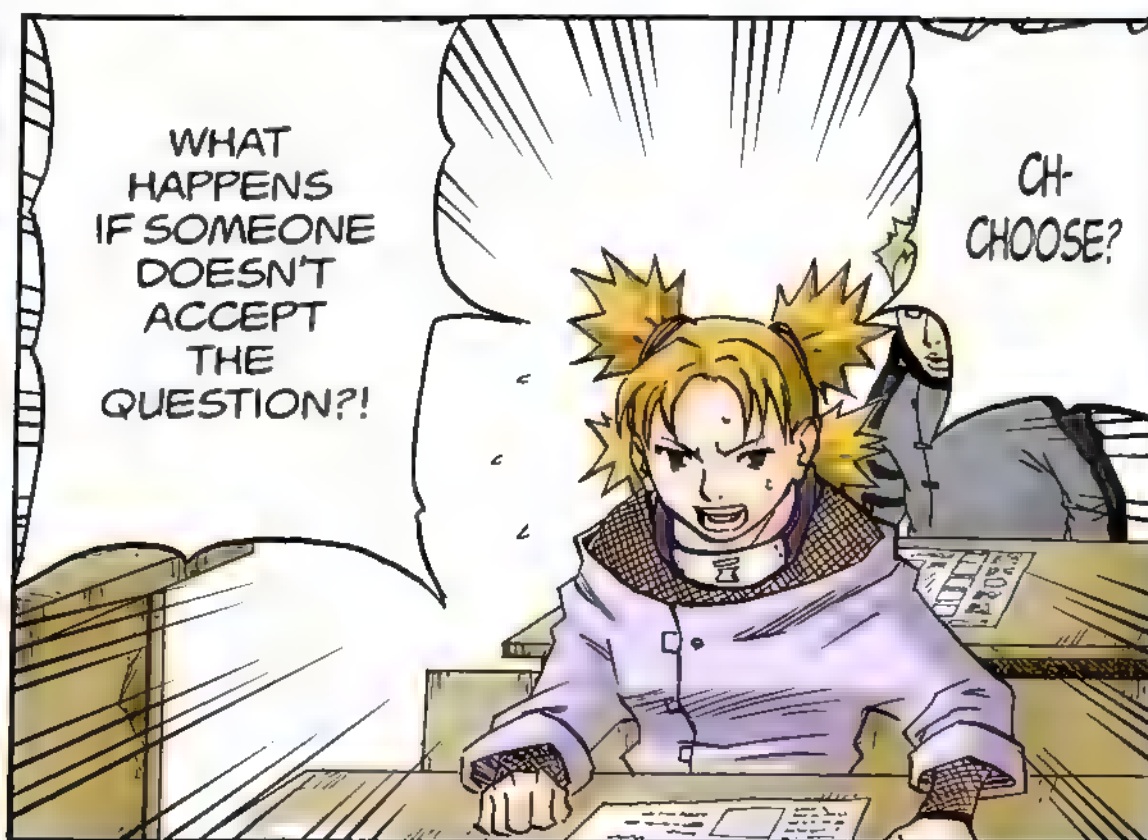
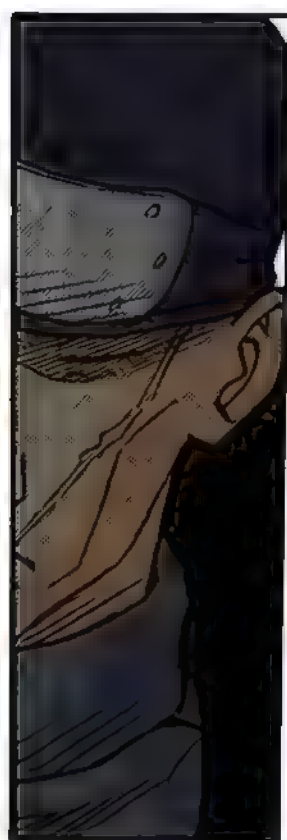
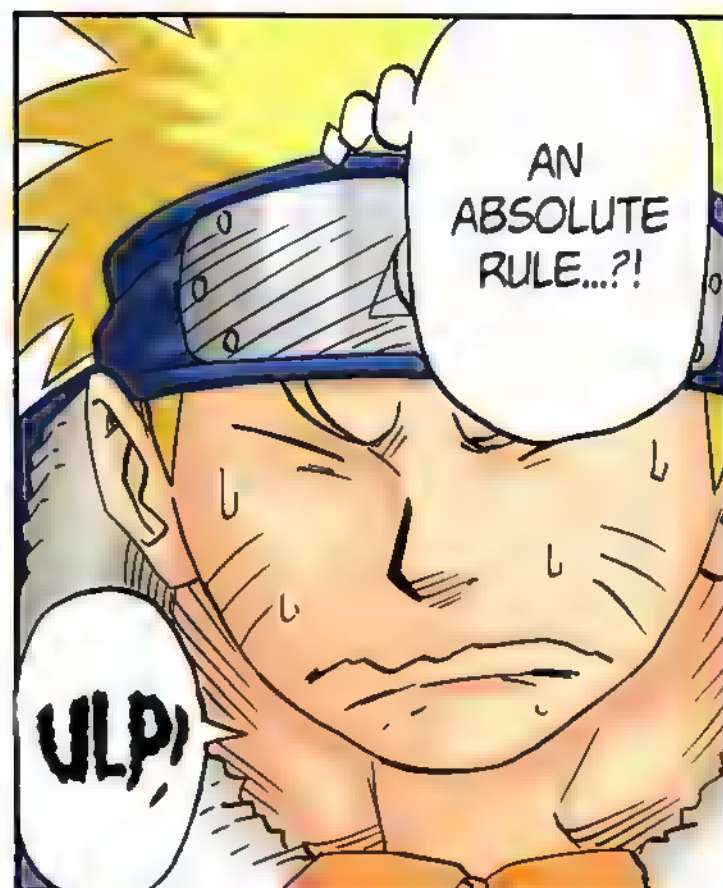
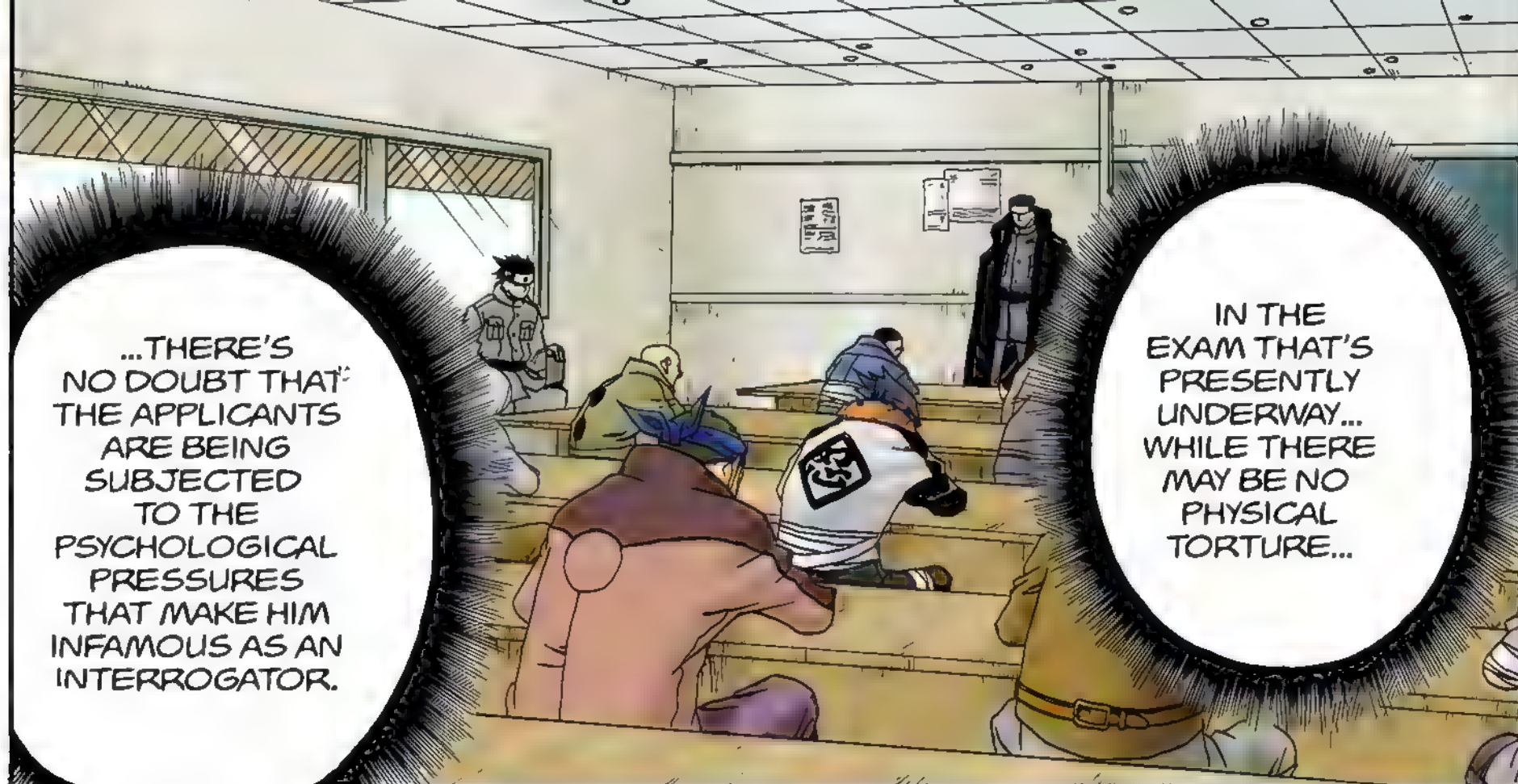
\* JINSEI IROIRO:  
"THERE ARE MANY DESTINIES."











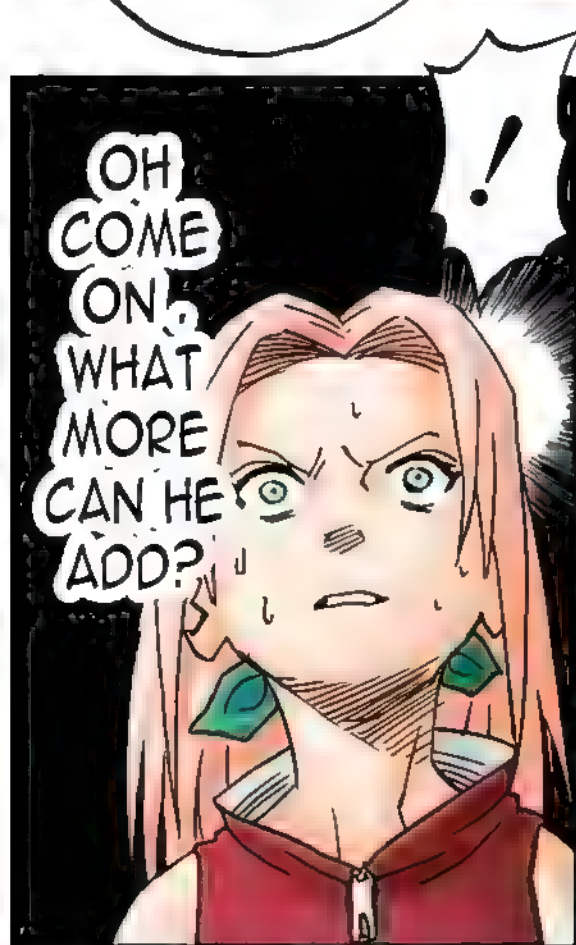




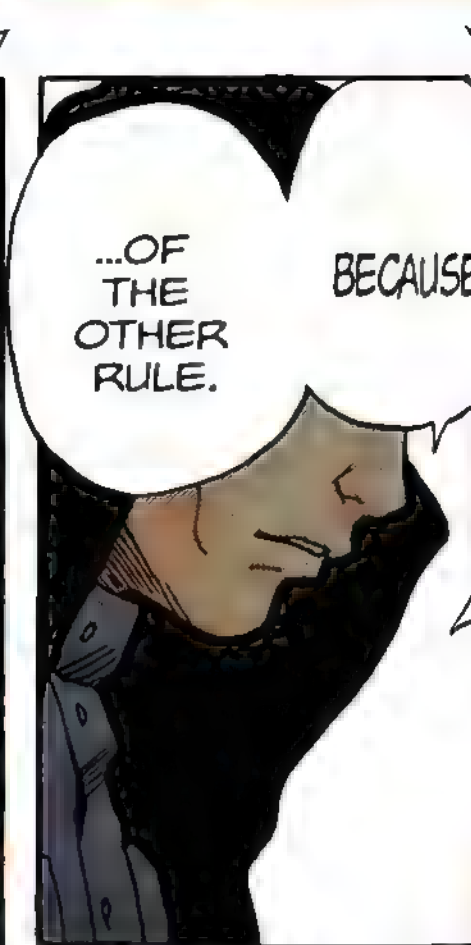
...AND  
FAIL!

AND BOTH  
OF YOUR  
TEAMMATES  
WILL FAIL  
RIGHT  
ALONG WITH  
YOU.

IF YOU  
REJECT THE  
QUESTION  
AND DON'T  
EVEN TRY TO  
ANSWER IT,  
YOU'LL LOSE  
ALL YOUR  
POINTS  
IMMEDIATELY.



OH  
COME  
ON!  
WHAT  
MORE  
CAN HE  
ADD?



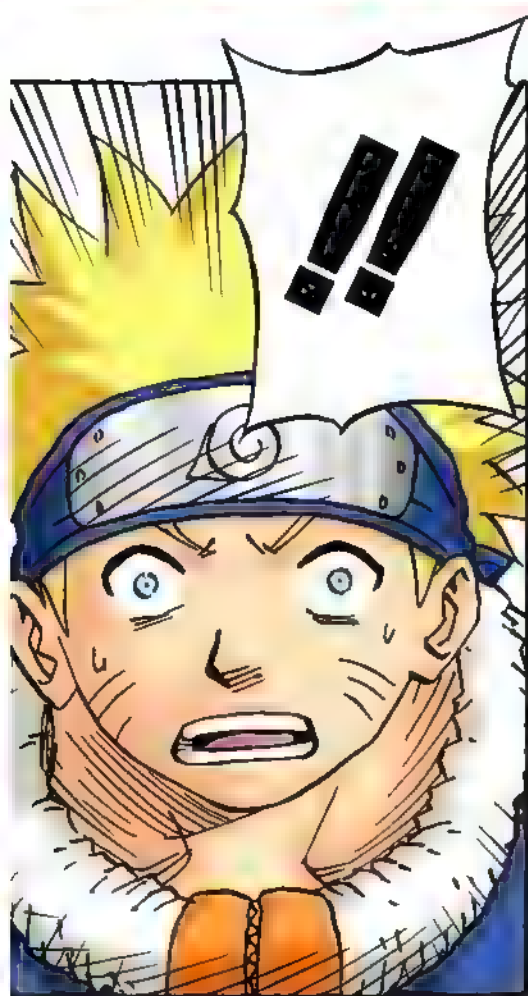
...OF  
THE  
OTHER  
RULE.

BECAUSE.



THEN  
WHY  
WOULD  
ANYONE  
CHOOSE  
TO  
REJECT  
IT?

SAY  
WHAT?!



!!

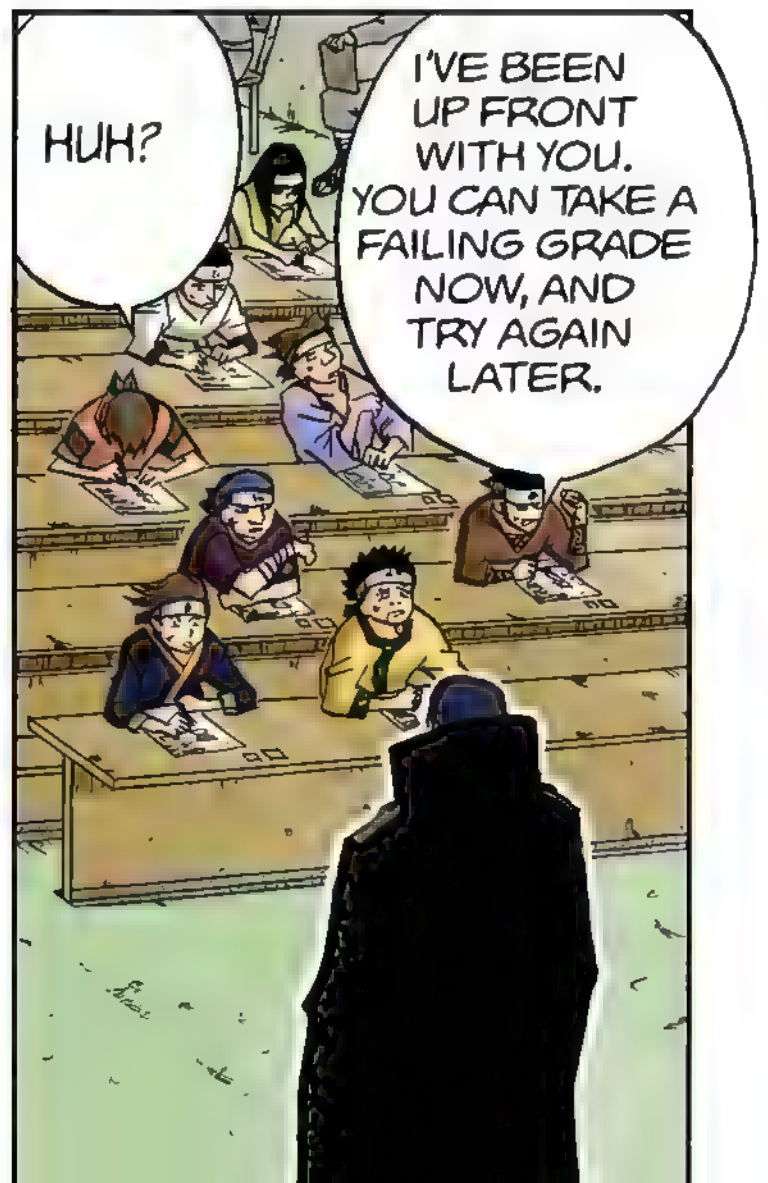
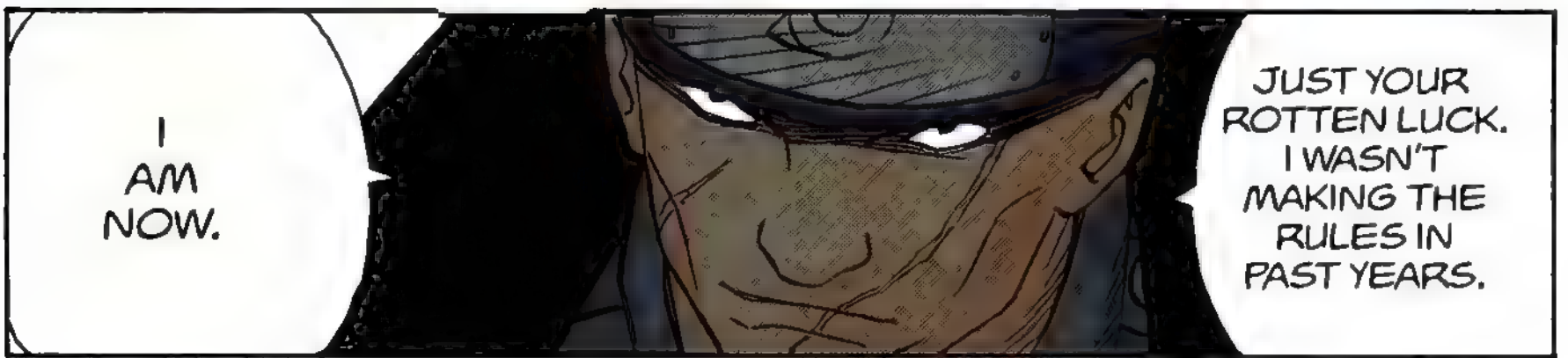
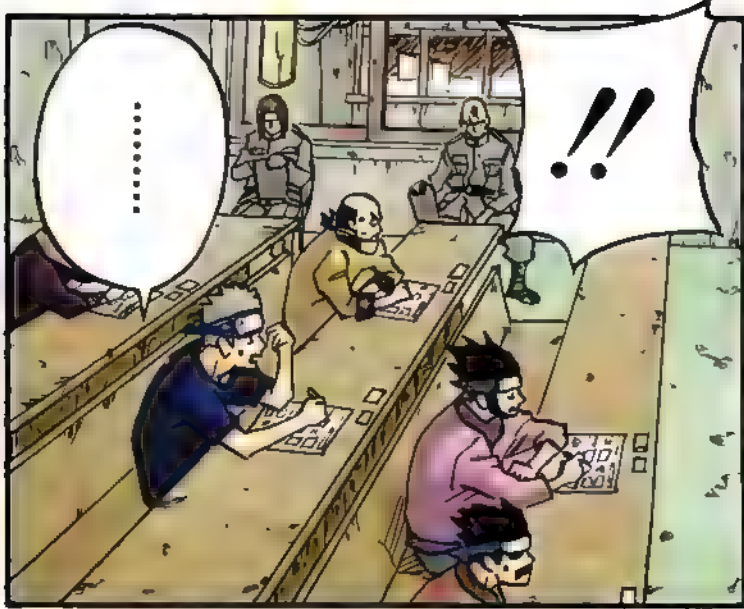


...YOU WILL  
NEVER BE  
PERMITTED  
TO APPLY  
FOR THE  
JOURNEYMAN  
NINJA EXAMS  
AGAIN.  
NOT  
EVER.

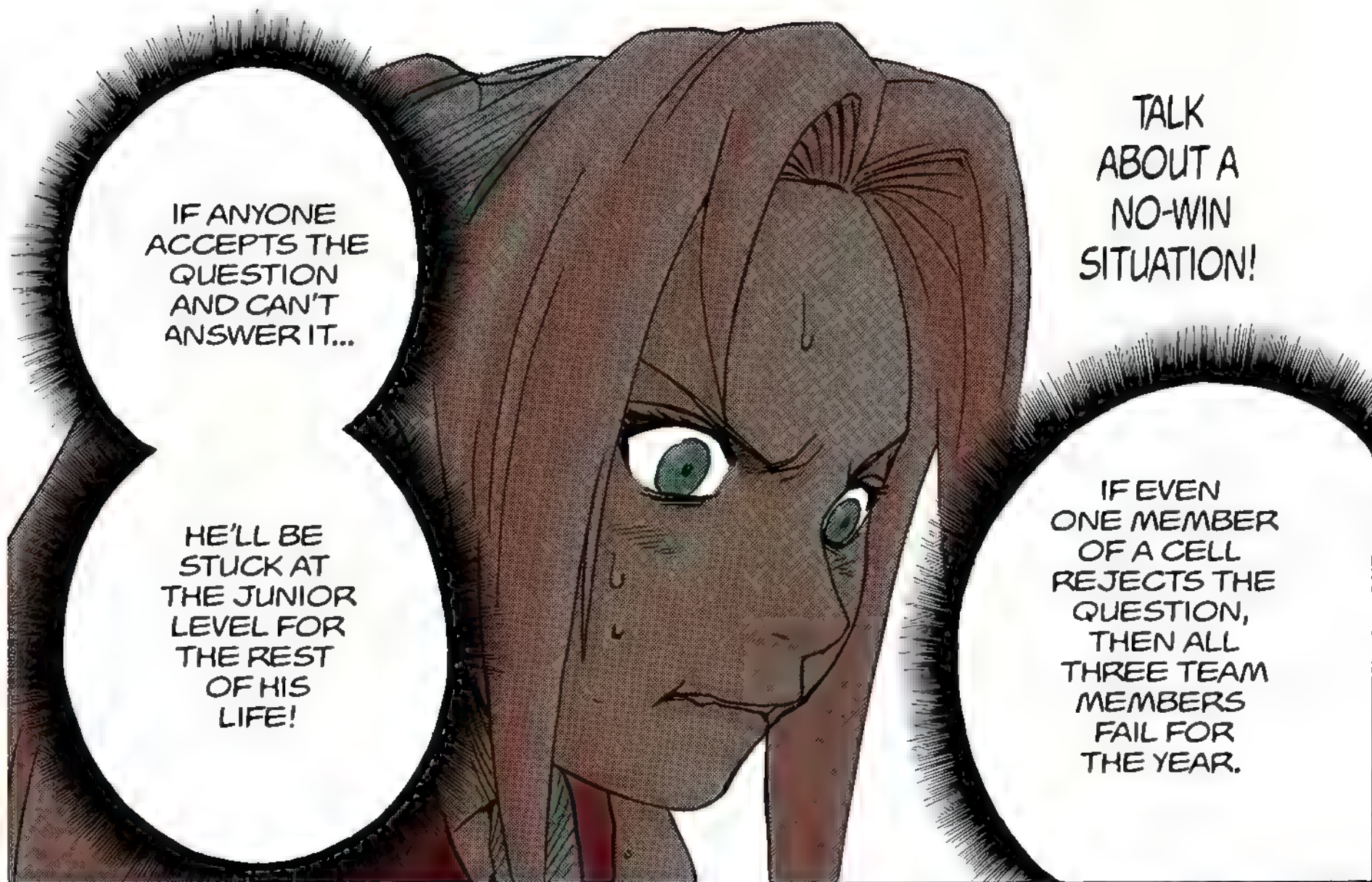
IF YOU  
TRY TO  
ANSWER  
THE  
QUESTION...

...AND  
YOU  
GET IT  
WRONG...









IF ANYONE  
ACCEPTS THE  
QUESTION  
AND CAN'T  
ANSWER IT...

HE'LL BE  
STUCK AT  
THE JUNIOR  
LEVEL FOR  
THE REST  
OF HIS  
LIFE!

TALK  
ABOUT A  
NO-WIN  
SITUATION!

IF EVEN  
ONE MEMBER  
OF A CELL  
REJECTS THE  
QUESTION,  
THEN ALL  
THREE TEAM  
MEMBERS  
FAIL FOR  
THE YEAR.



NO SANE  
PERSON  
COULD MAKE  
SUCH A  
CHOICE!!

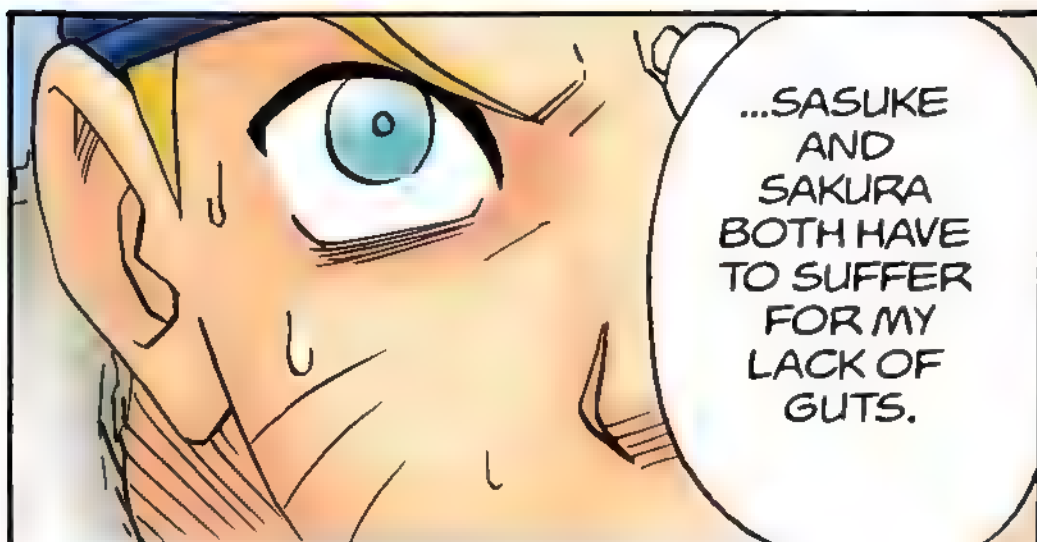
HEADS YOU  
WIN, TAILS  
WE LOSE!!



THEN  
LET'S  
BEGIN.

READY?

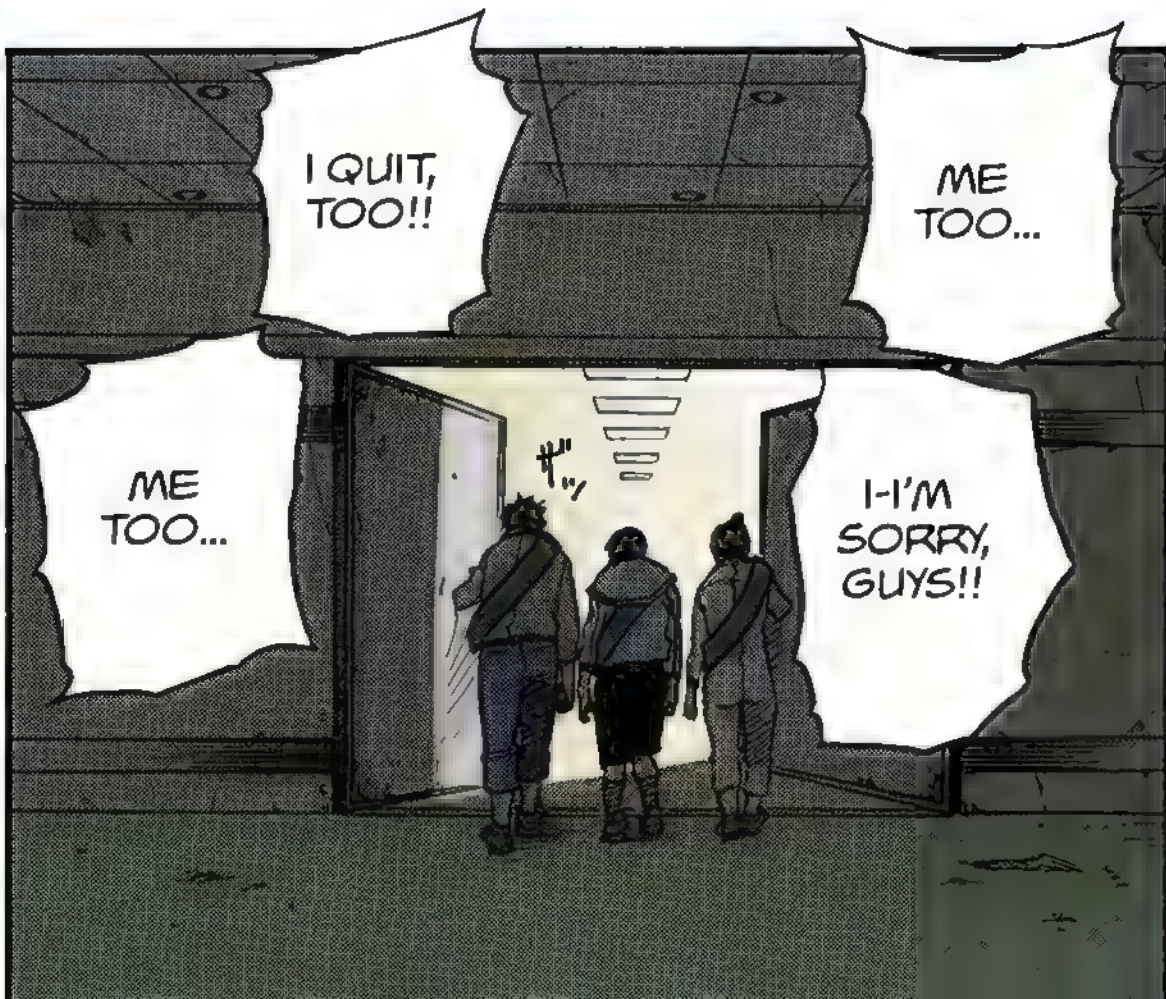
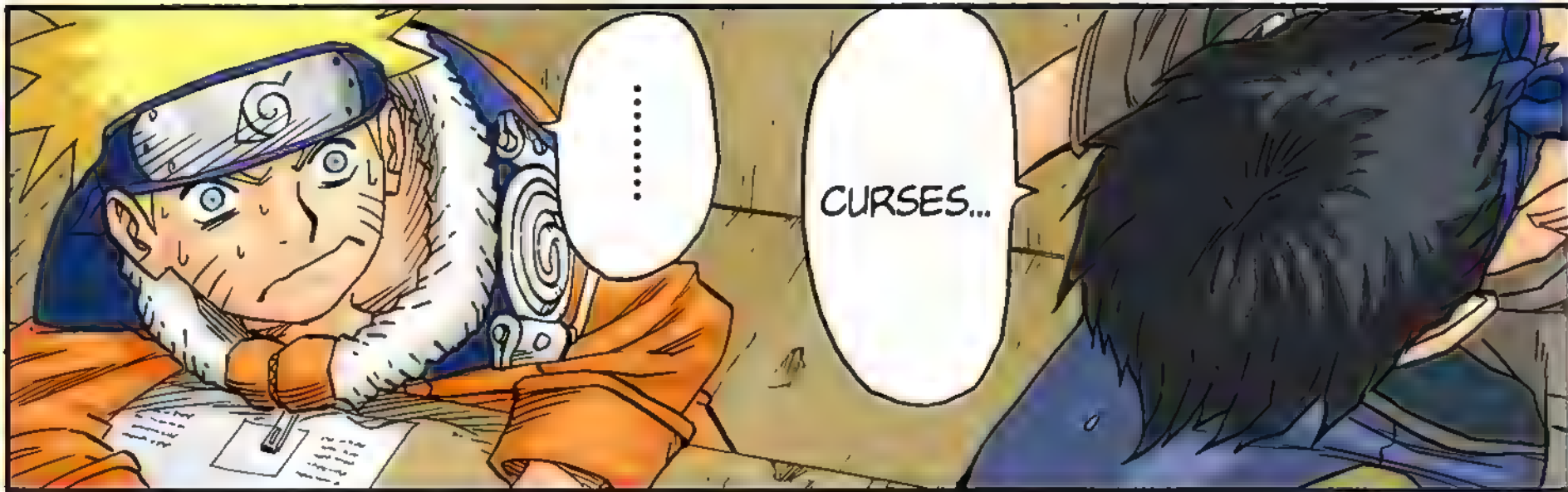
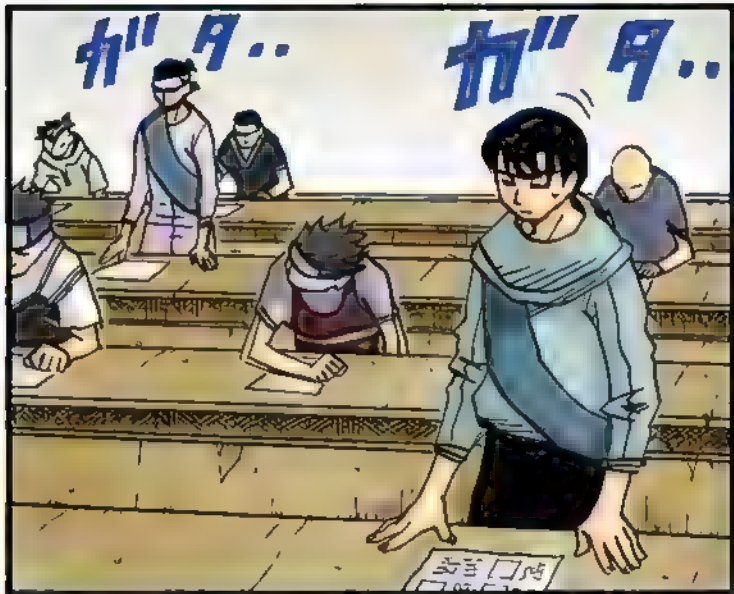
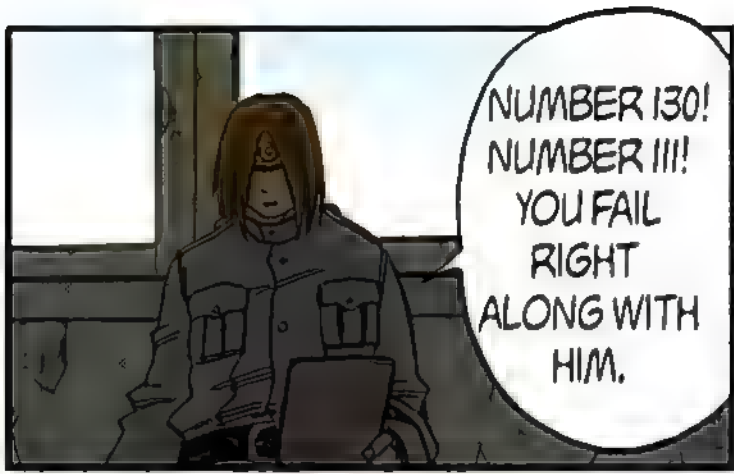




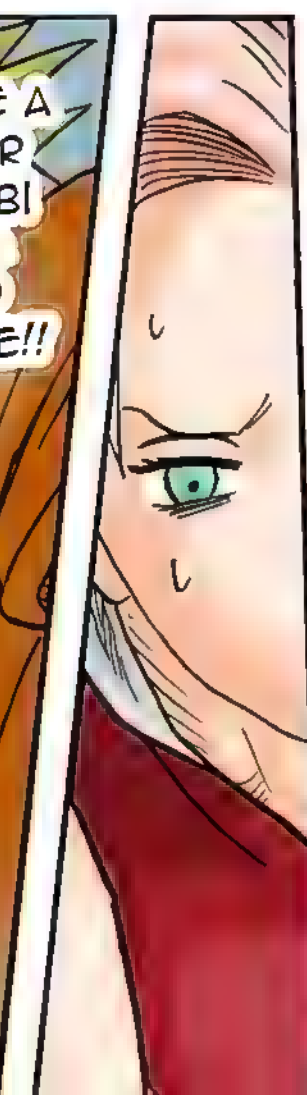
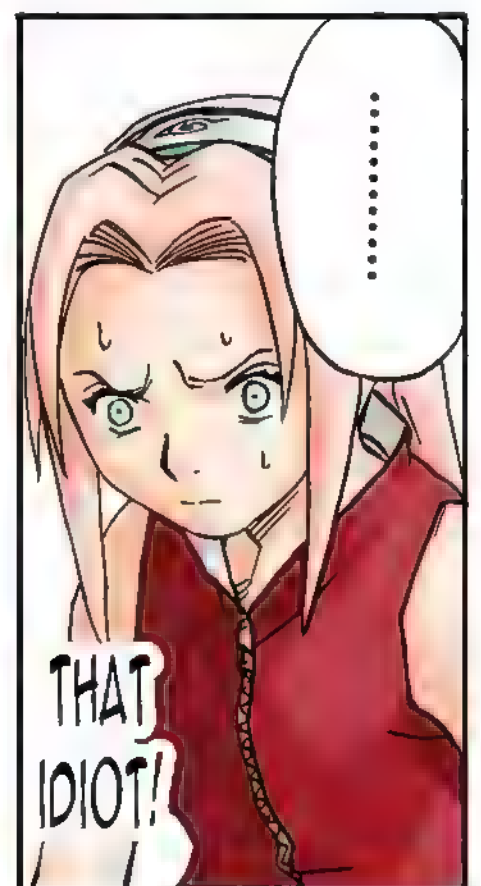
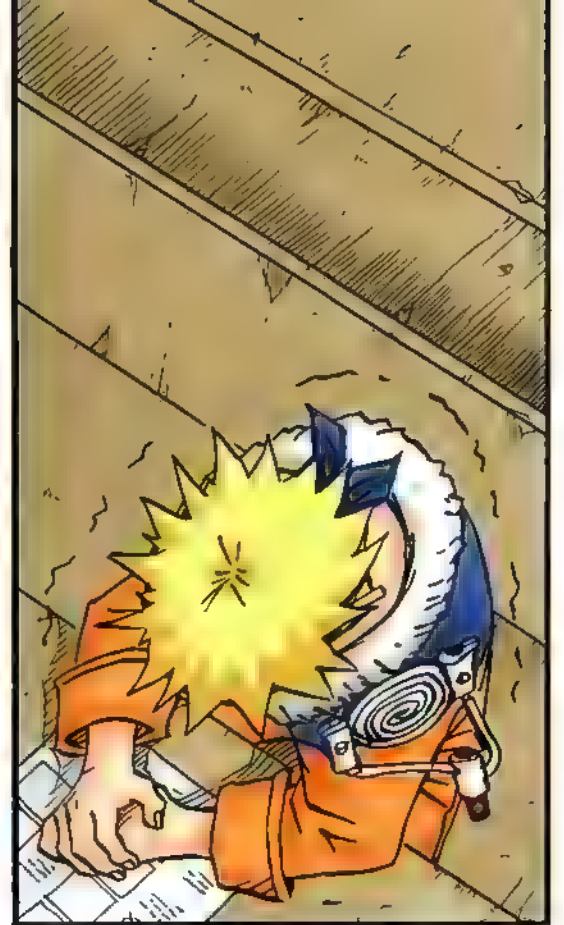
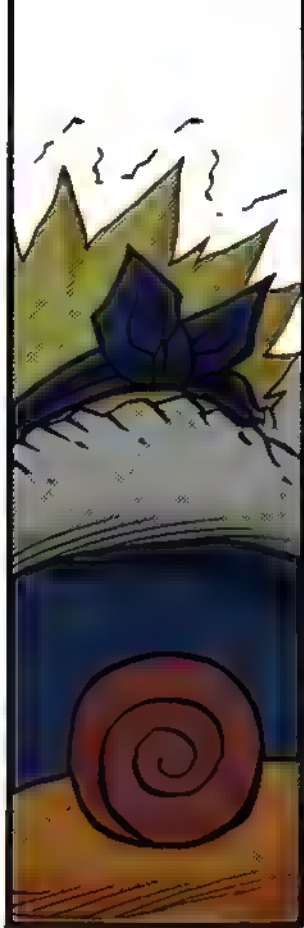




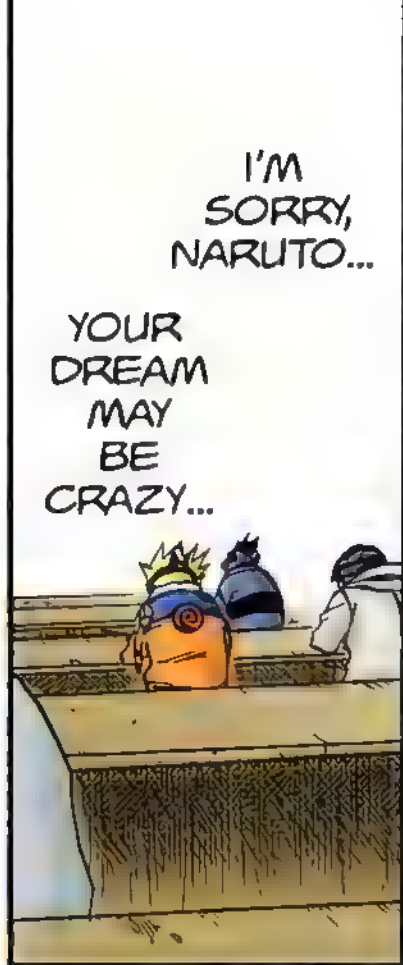






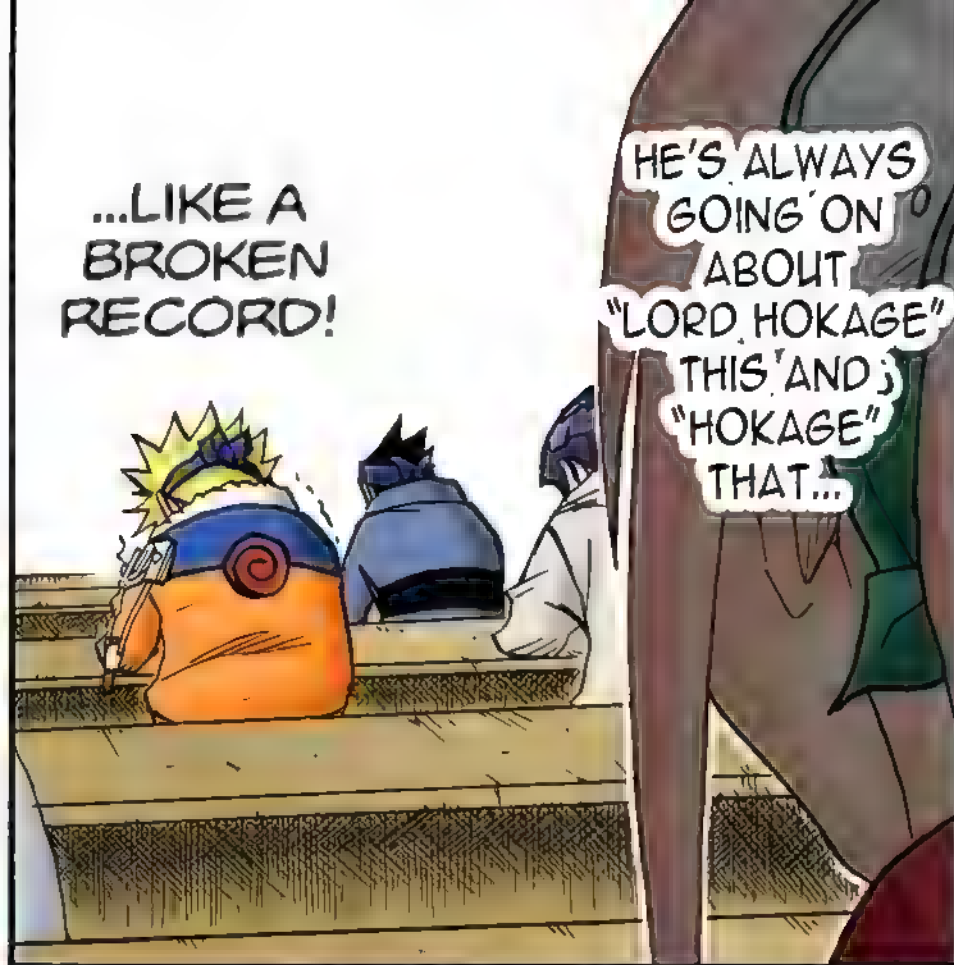






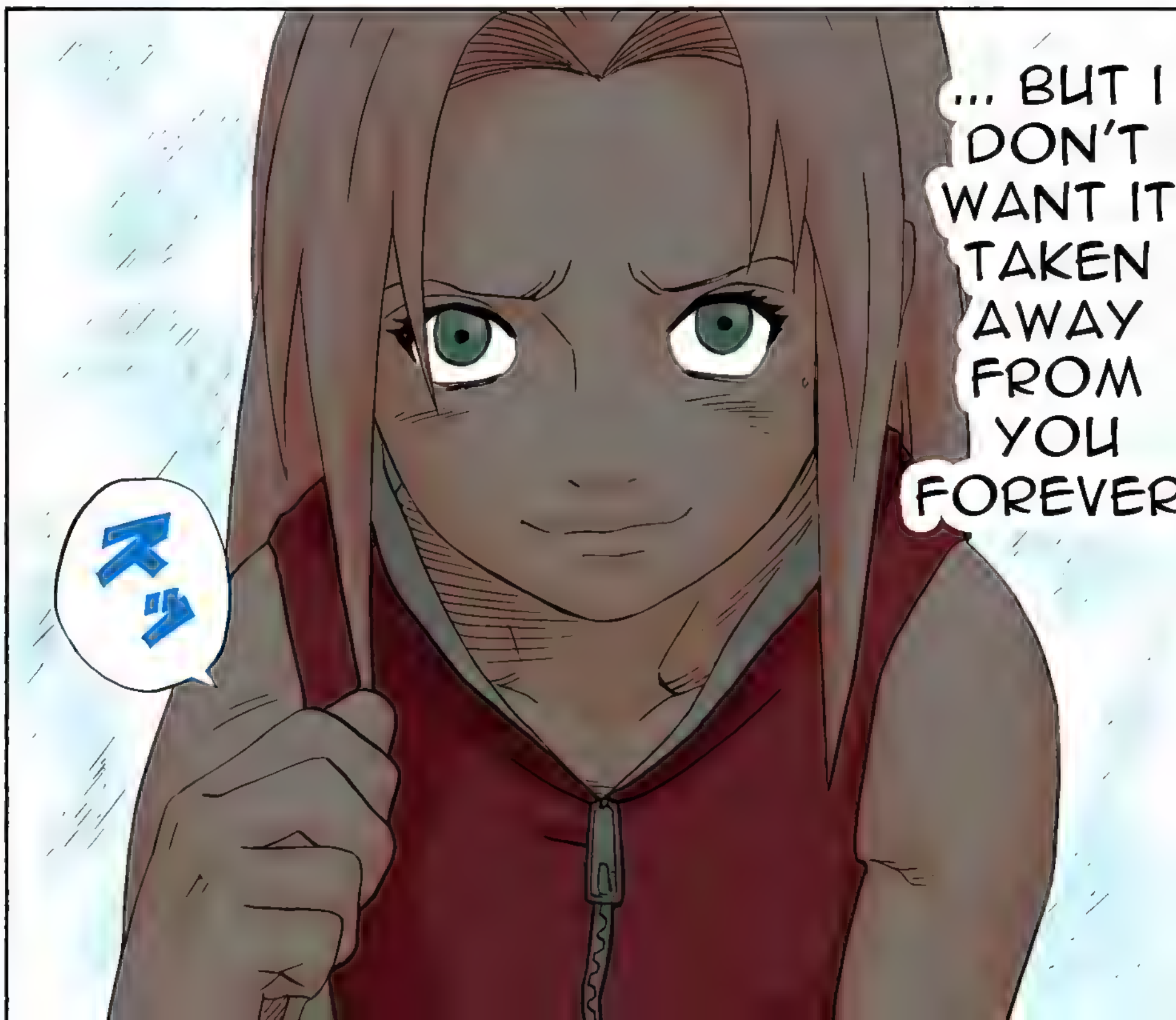
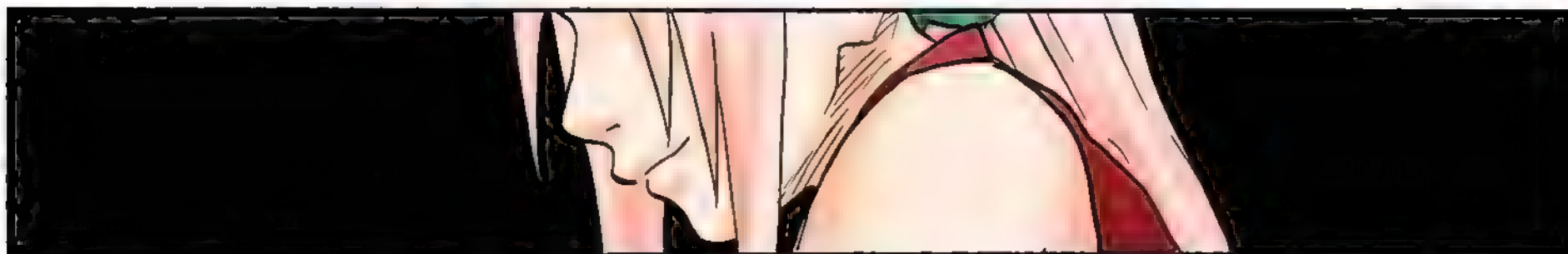
I'M  
SORRY,  
NARUTO...

YOUR  
DREAM  
MAY  
BE  
CRAZY...



...LIKE A  
BROKEN  
RECORD!

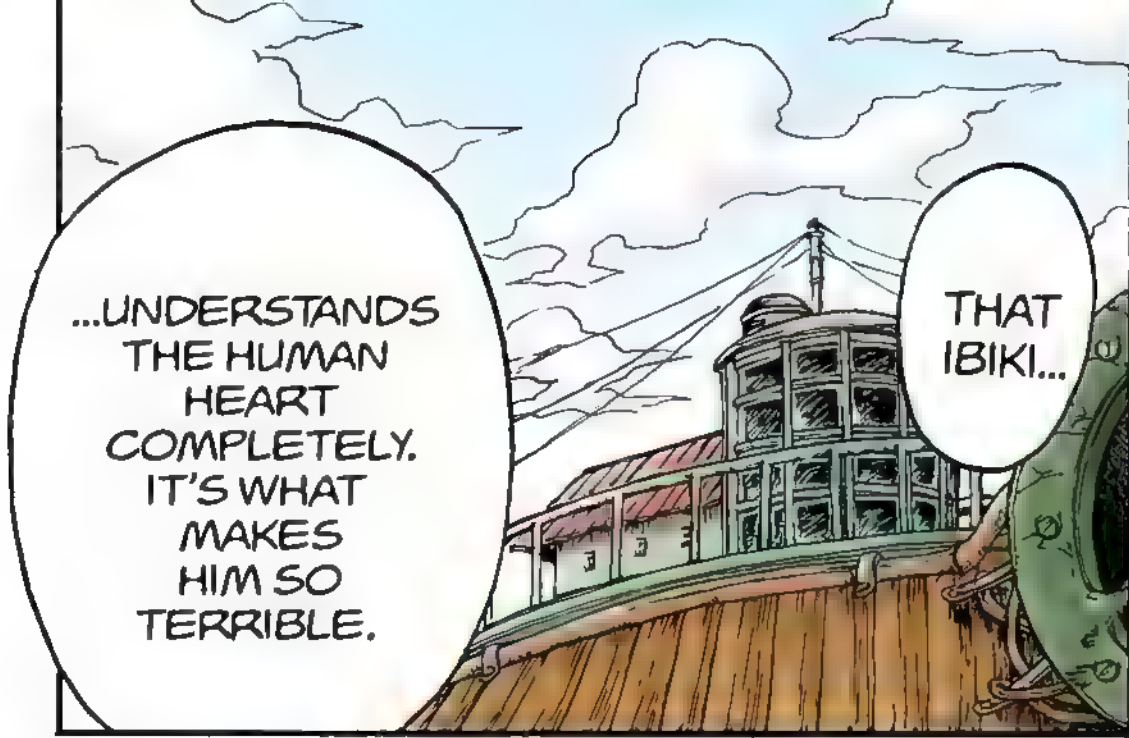
HE'S ALWAYS  
GOING ON  
ABOUT  
"LORD HOKAGE"  
THIS AND  
"HOKAGE"  
THAT...



... BUT I  
DON'T  
WANT IT  
TAKEN  
AWAY  
FROM  
YOU  
FOREVER

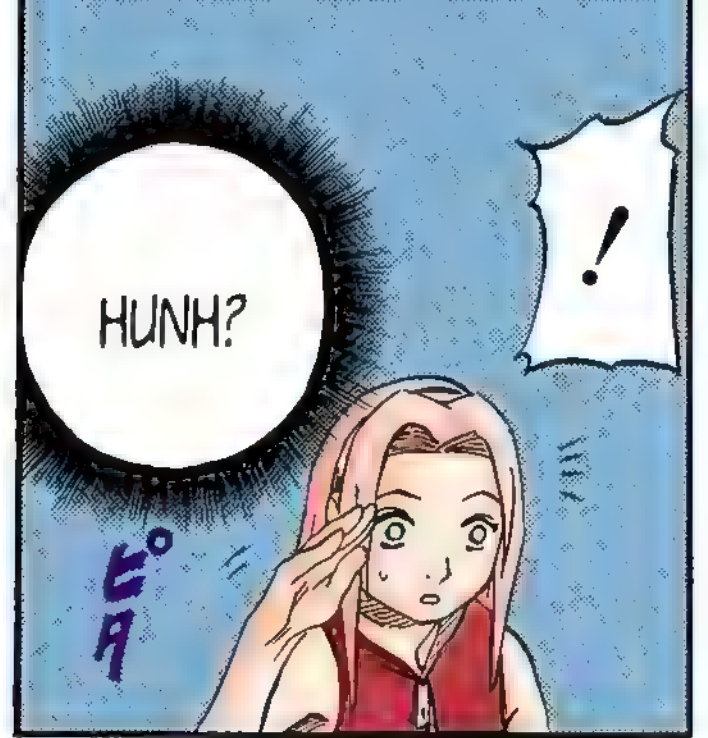
ス  
ッ



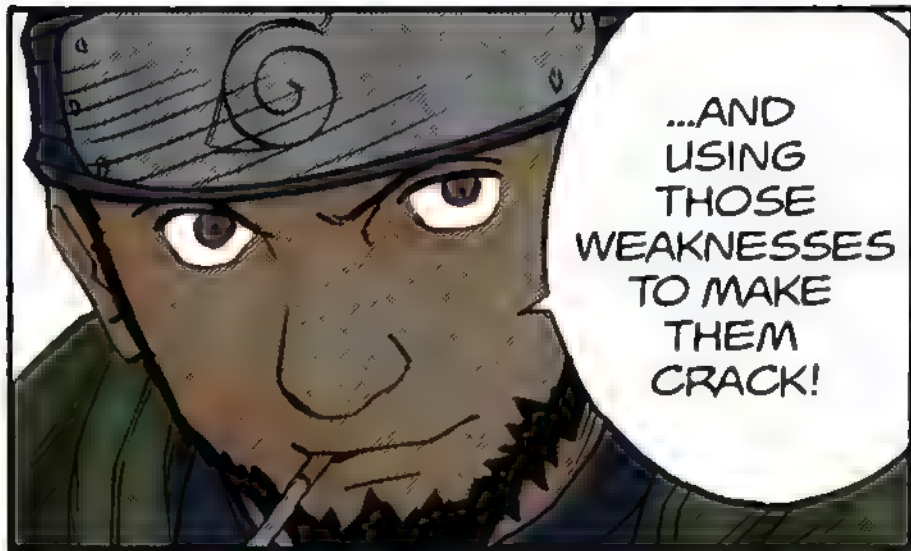


...UNDERSTANDS  
THE HUMAN  
HEART  
COMPLETELY.  
IT'S WHAT  
MAKES  
HIM SO  
TERRIBLE.

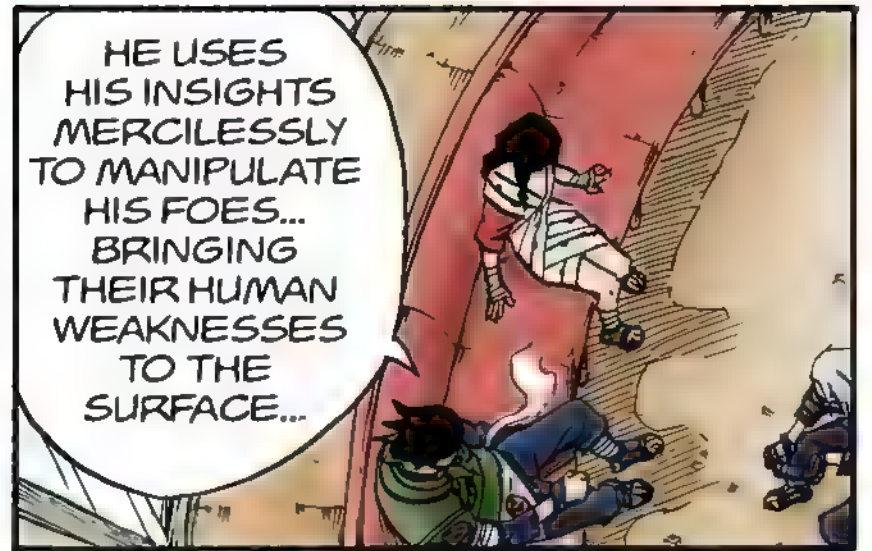
THAT  
IBIKI...



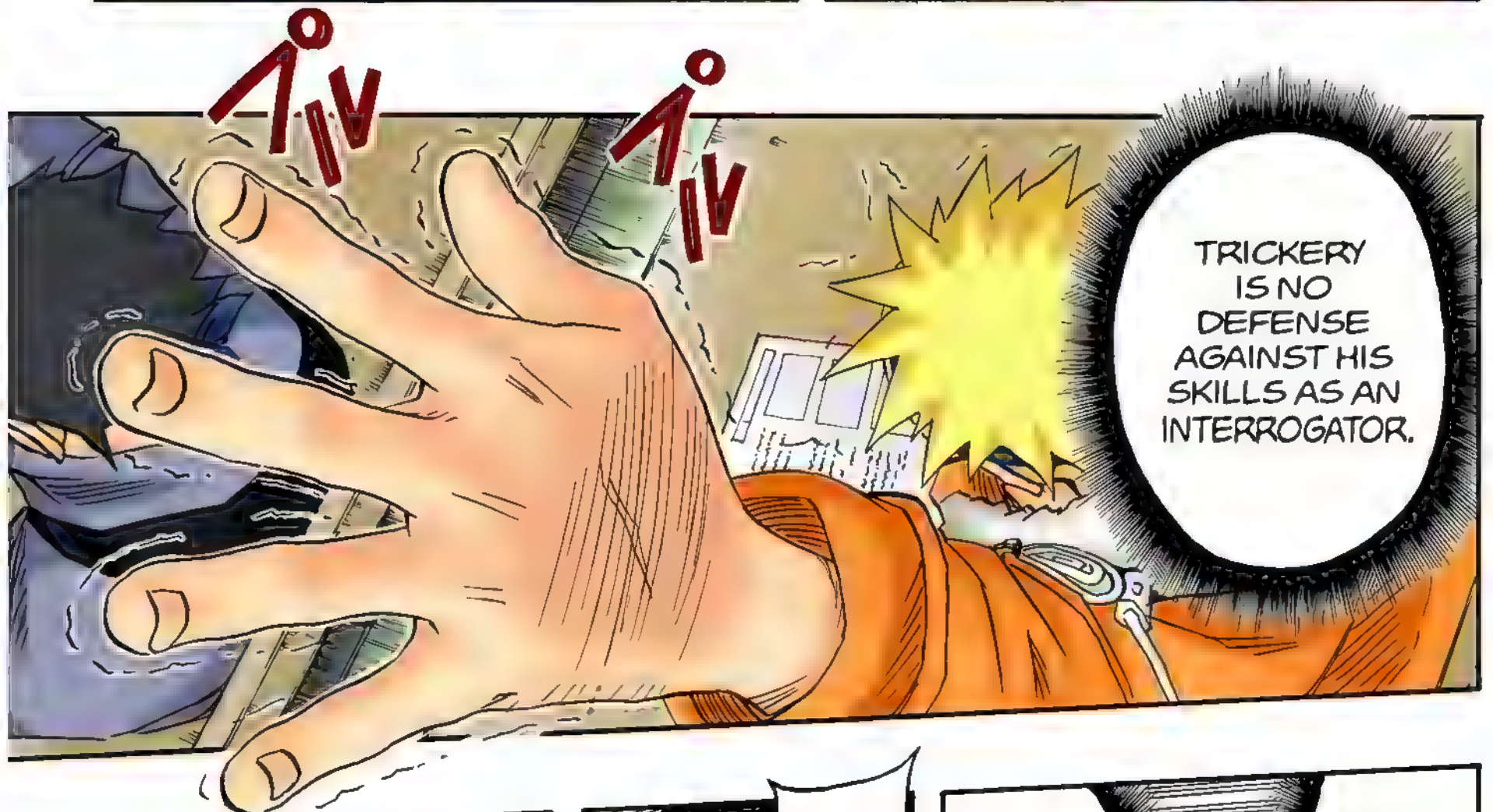
HUNH?



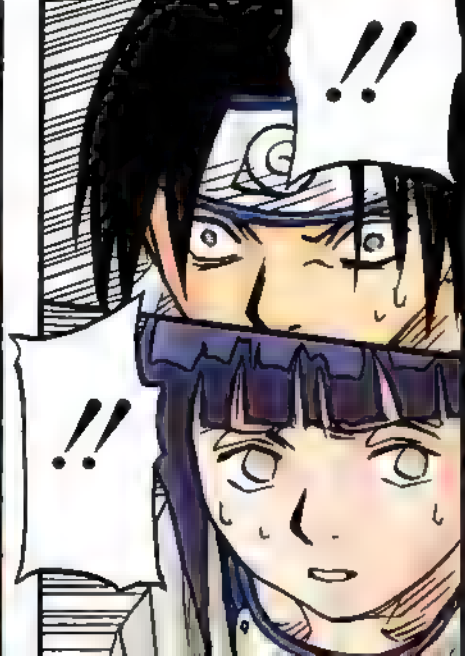
...AND  
USING  
THOSE  
WEAKNESSES  
TO MAKE  
THEM  
CRACK!



HE USES  
HIS INSIGHTS  
MERCILESSLY  
TO MANIPULATE  
HIS FOES...  
BRINGING  
THEIR HUMAN  
WEAKNESSES  
TO THE  
SURFACE...



TRICKERY  
IS NO  
DEFENSE  
AGAINST HIS  
SKILLS AS AN  
INTERROGATOR.



NARUTO....!!

N...

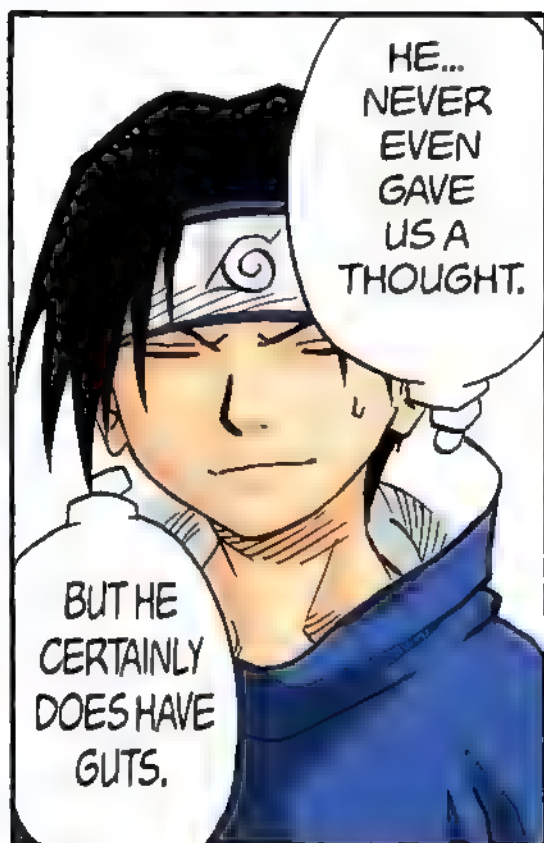
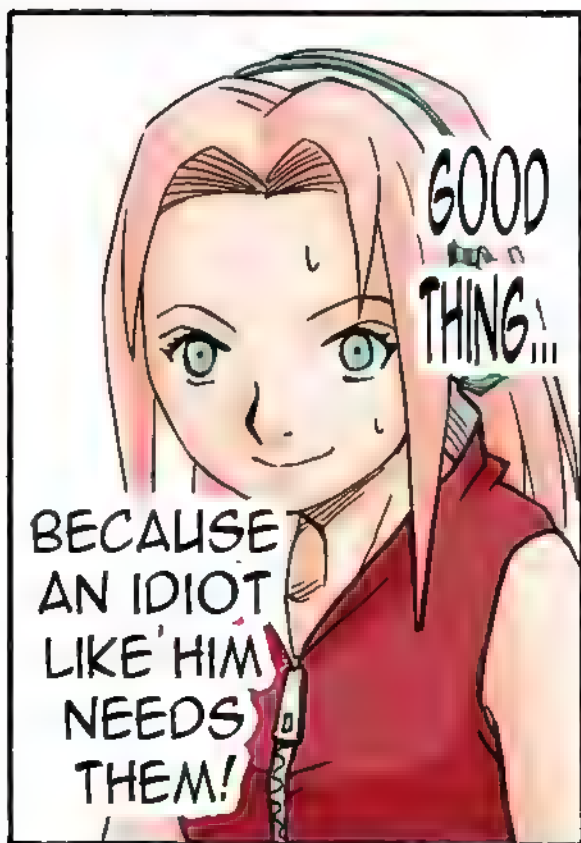
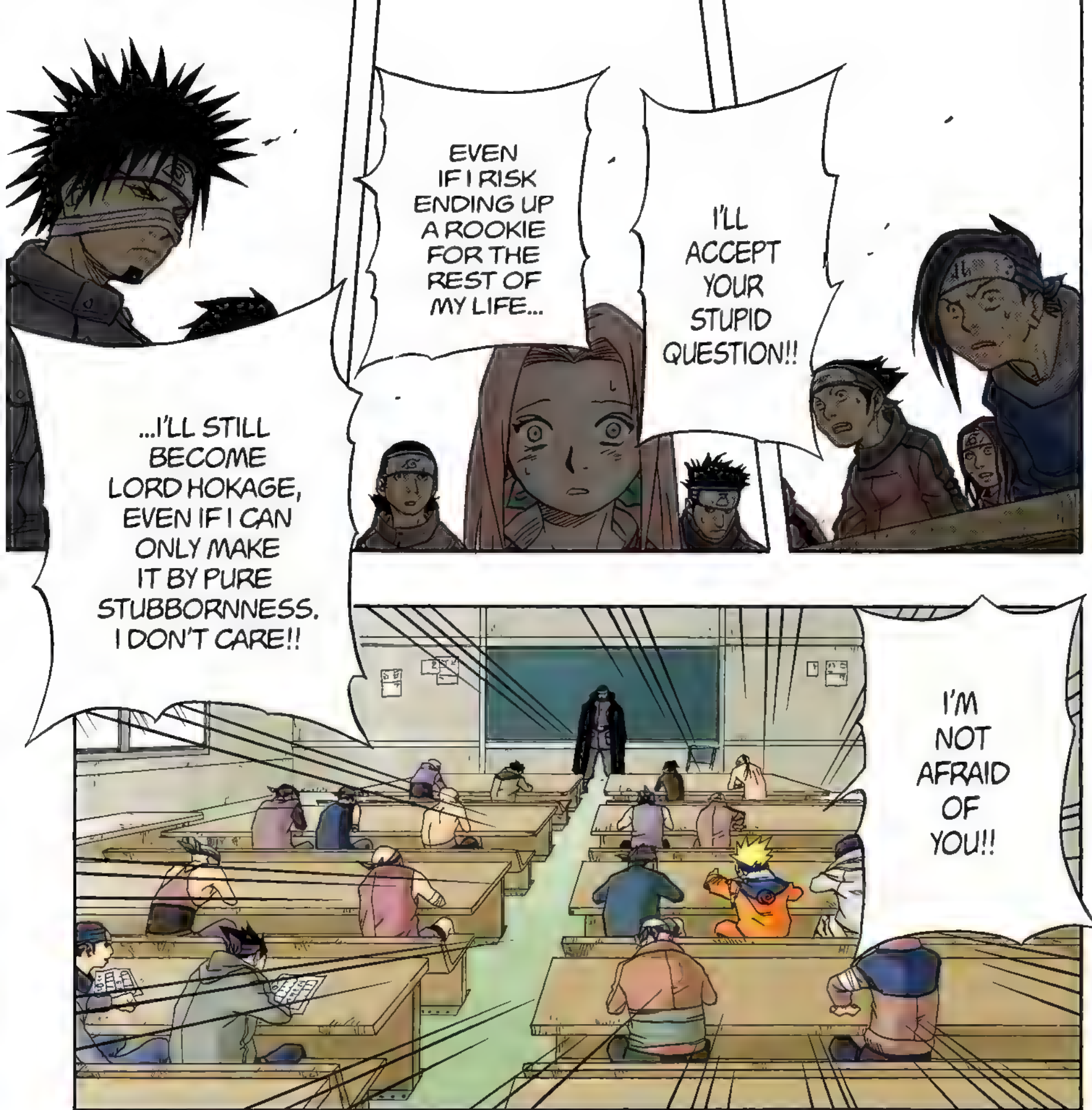


A dynamic manga-style illustration of Naruto Uzumaki. He is shown from the waist up, leaning forward with a determined, slightly pained expression. His signature orange jumpsuit is visible, with a large, dark red, torn piece of fabric or energy trailing behind him. His blonde hair is spiky and stands out. He wears his blue forehead protector with the silver plate featuring the Konoha symbol. Behind him, a massive, dark red hand is reaching out, its fingers spread. The background consists of white space with blue and black motion lines radiating from the hand and Naruto, emphasizing the intensity of the moment. The ground at the bottom is dark and rocky.

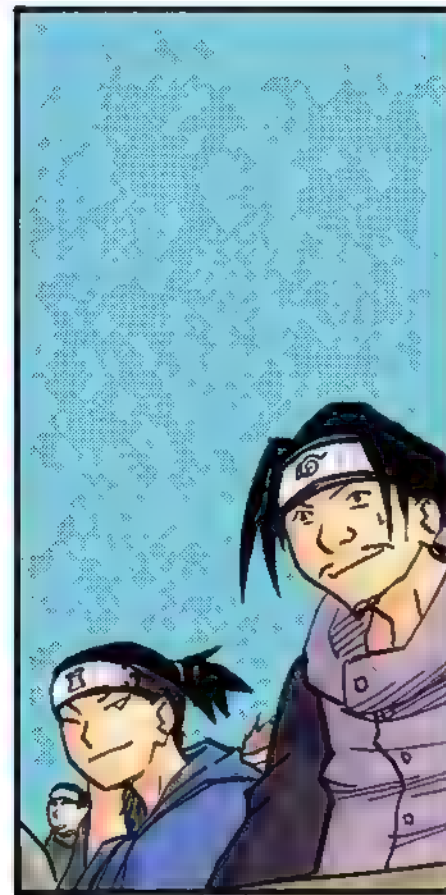
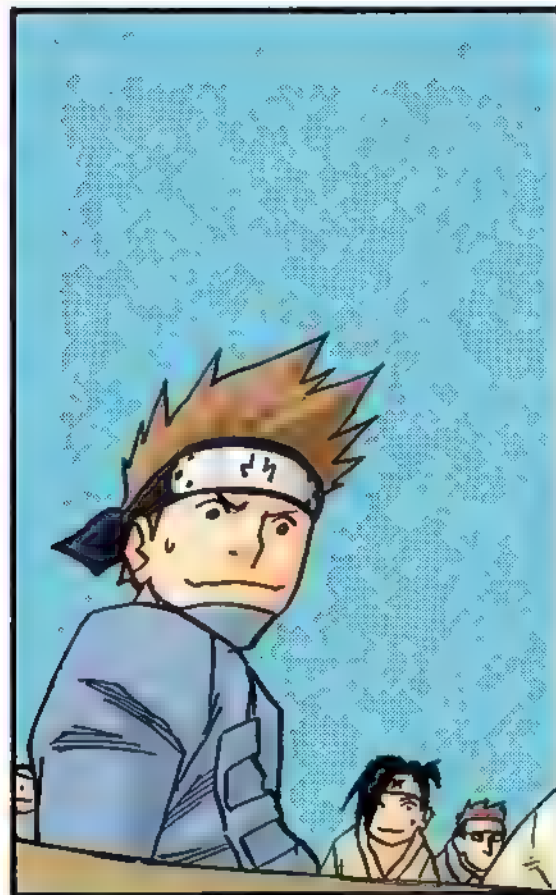
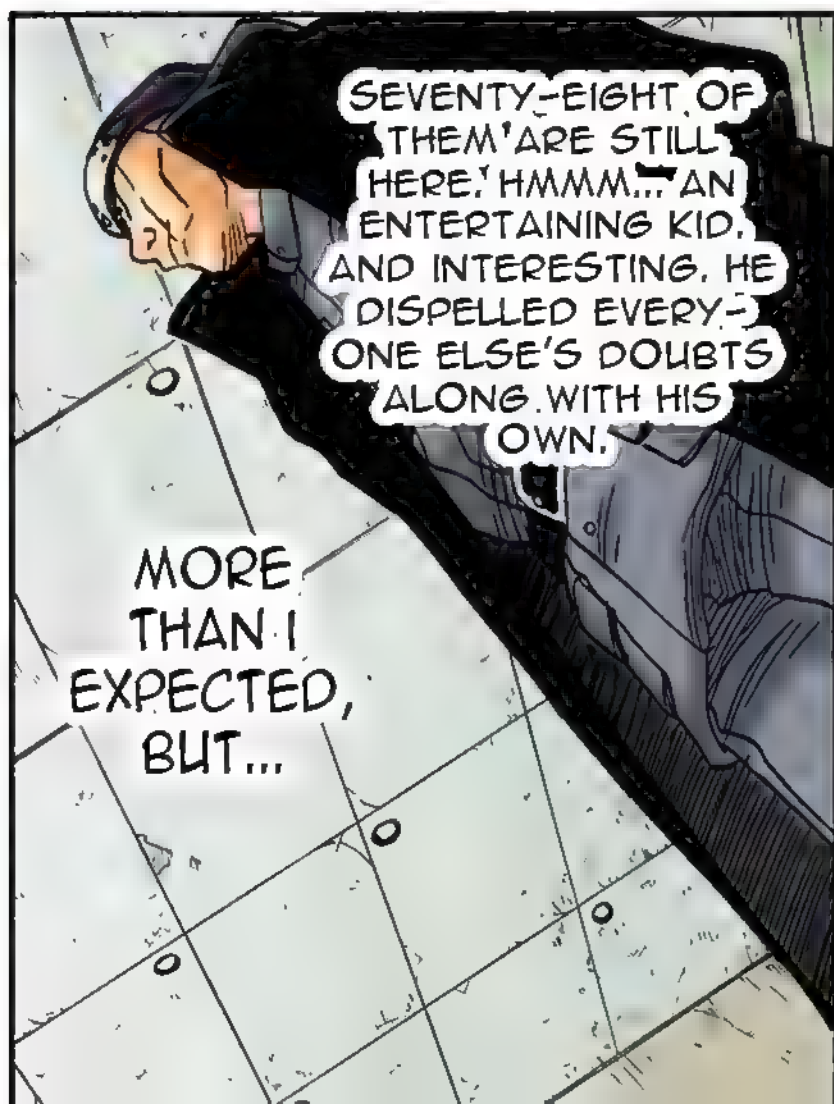
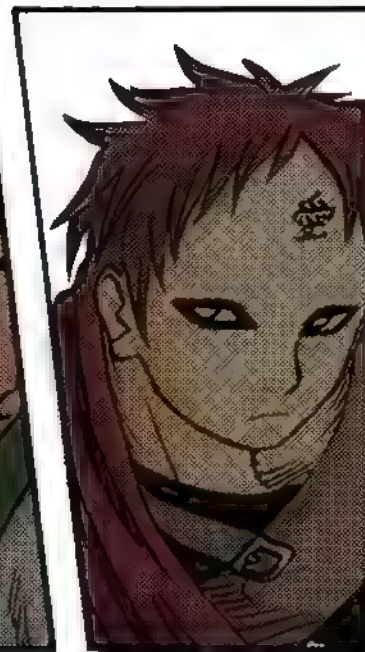
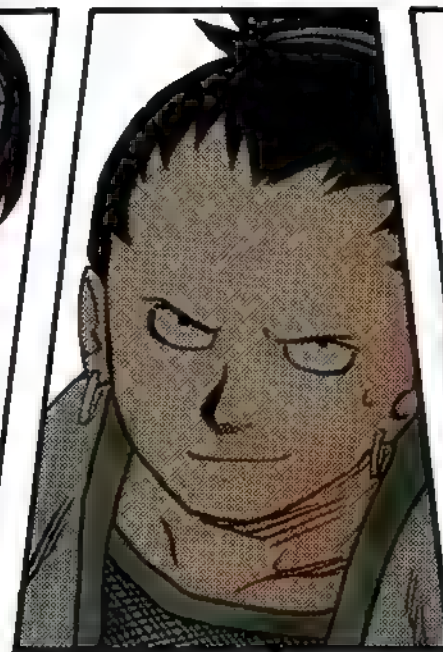
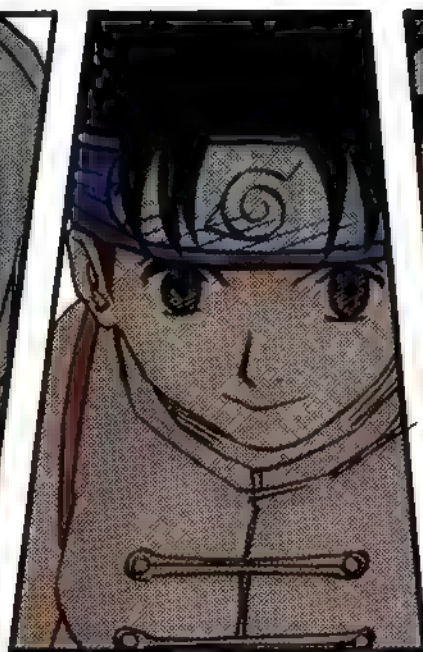
NEVER  
UNDERESTIMATE  
ME!!!

I DON'T  
QUIT,  
AND I  
WON'T  
RUN!!

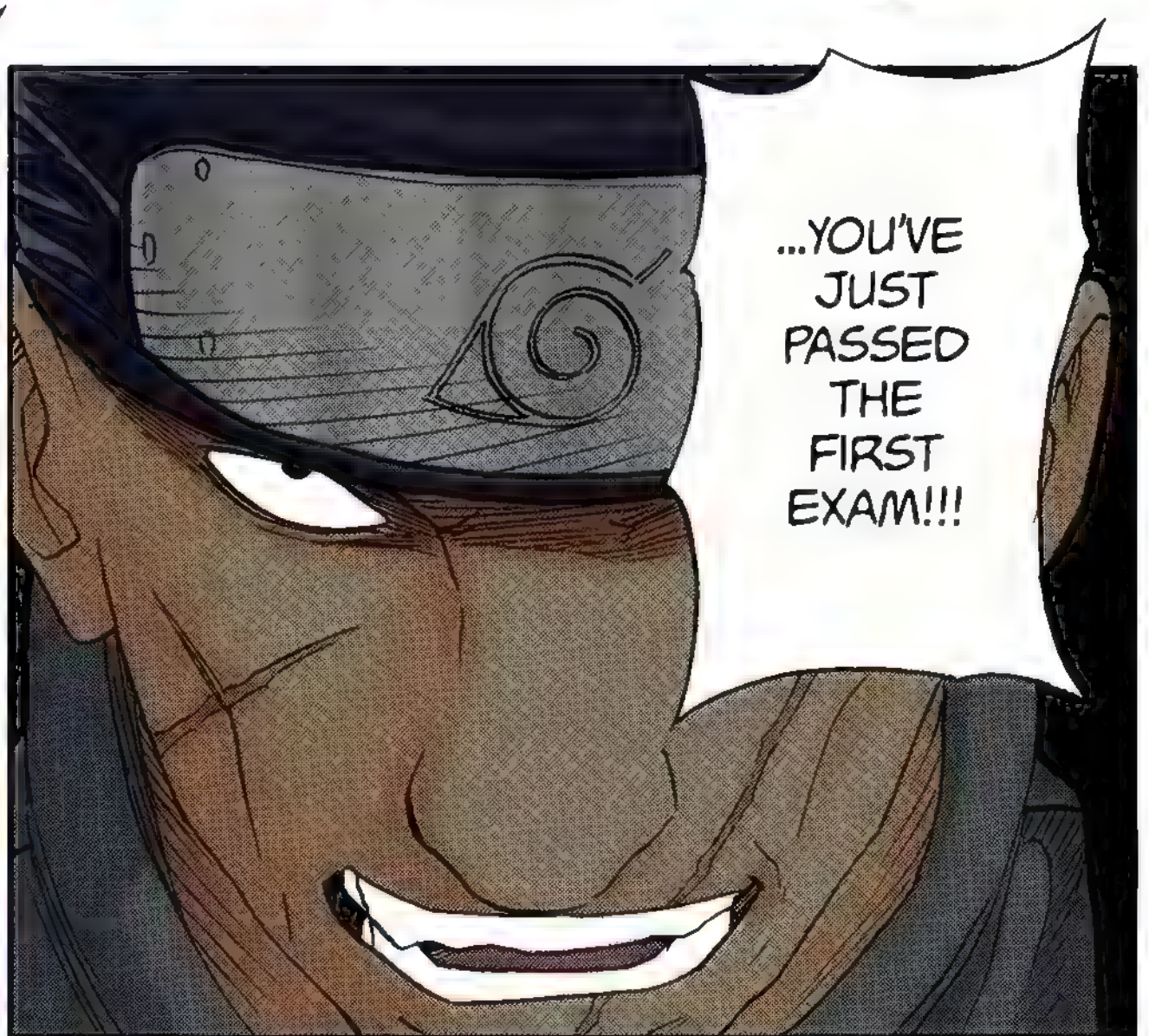
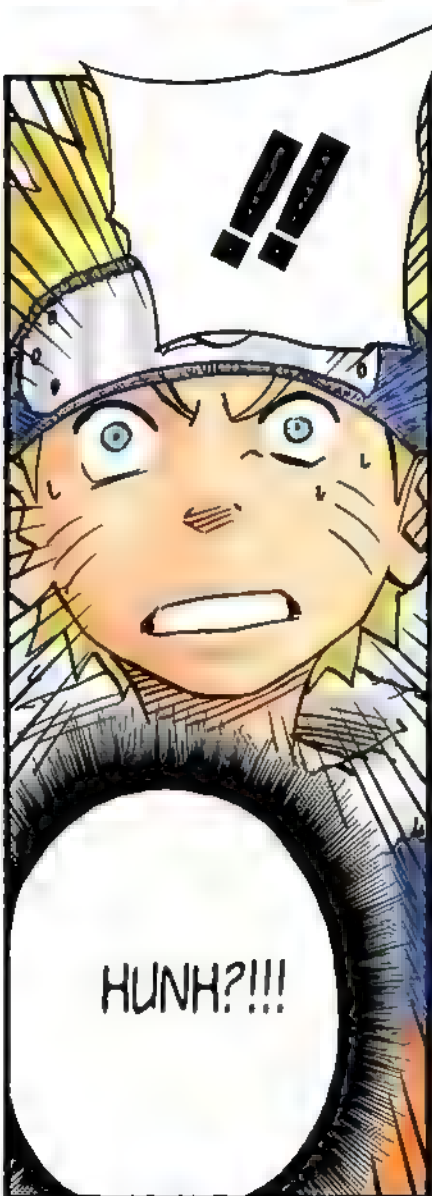
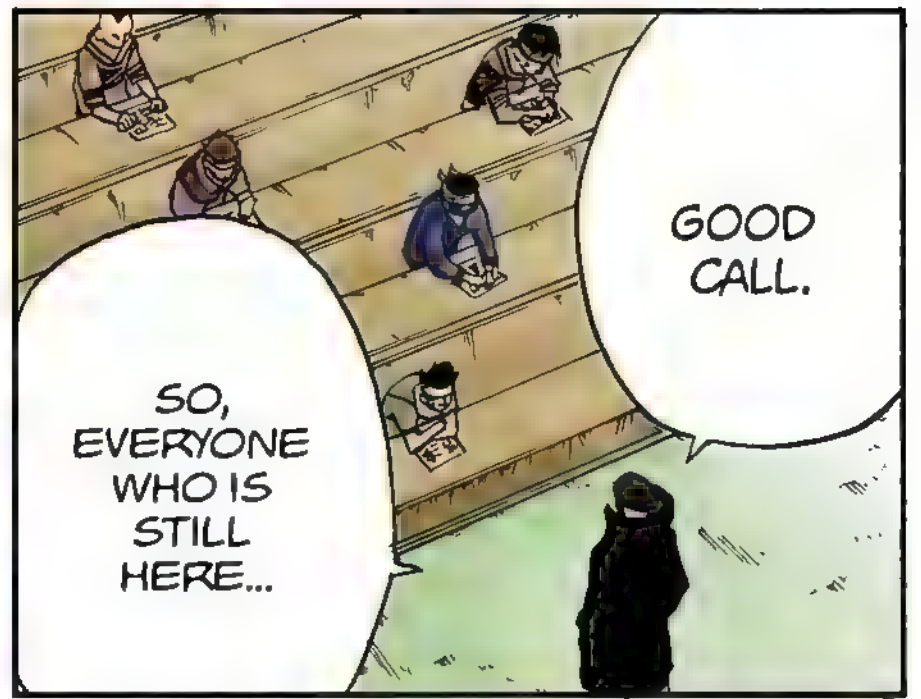
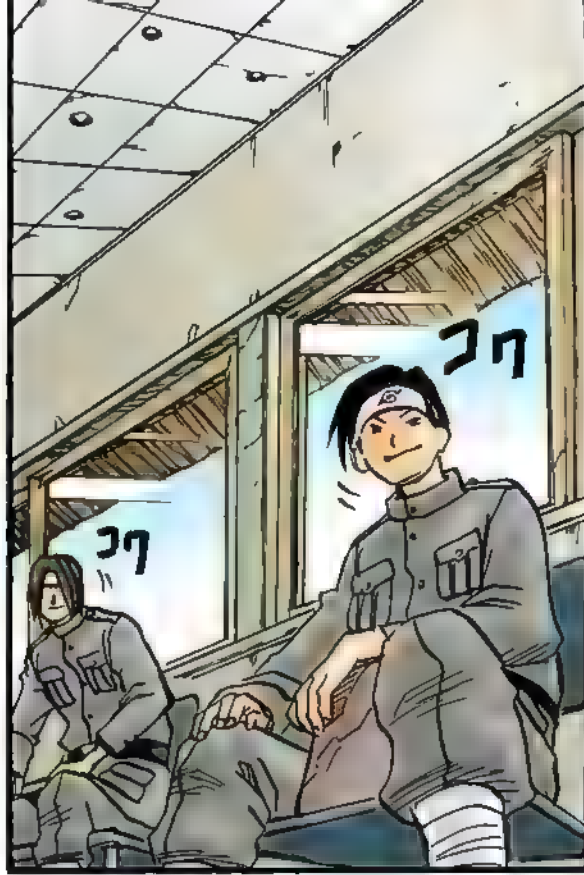












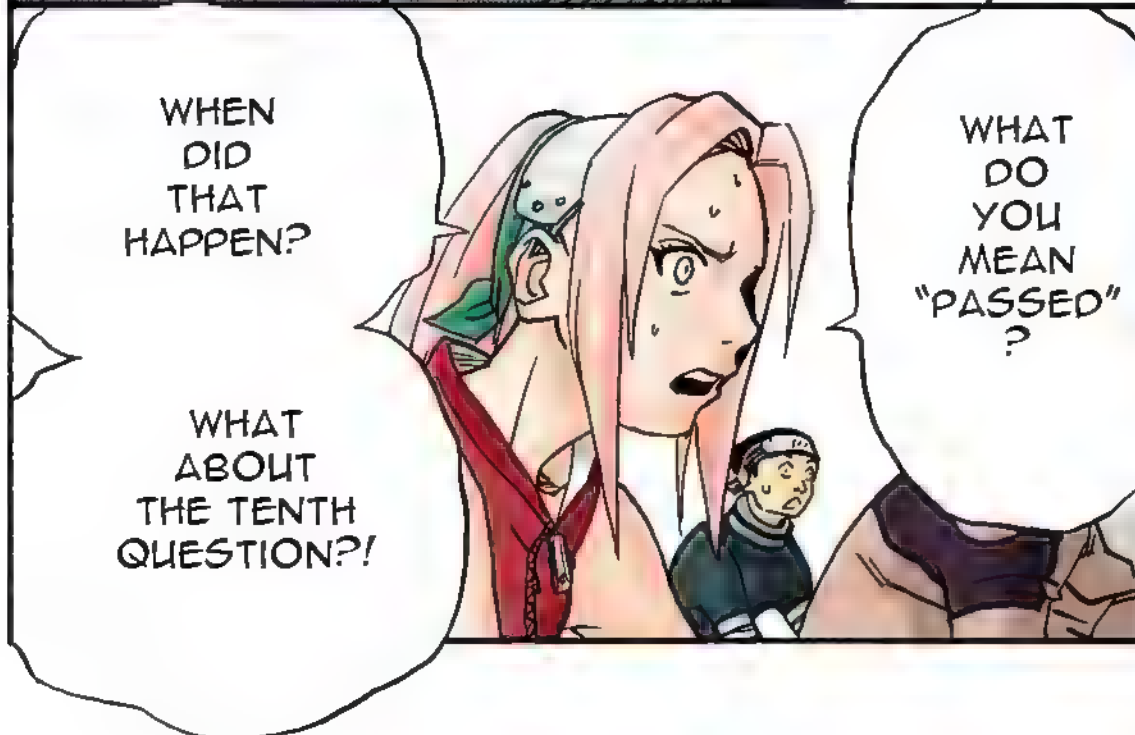




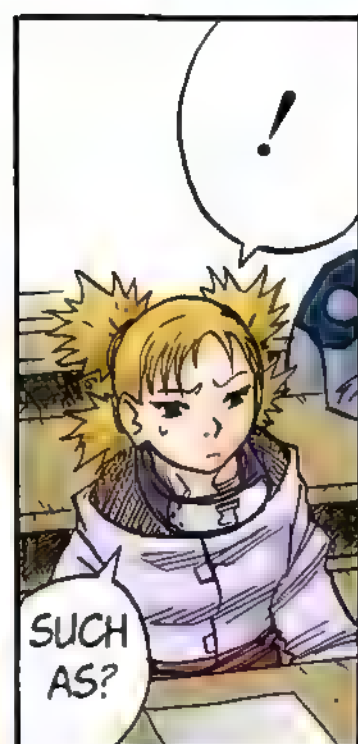
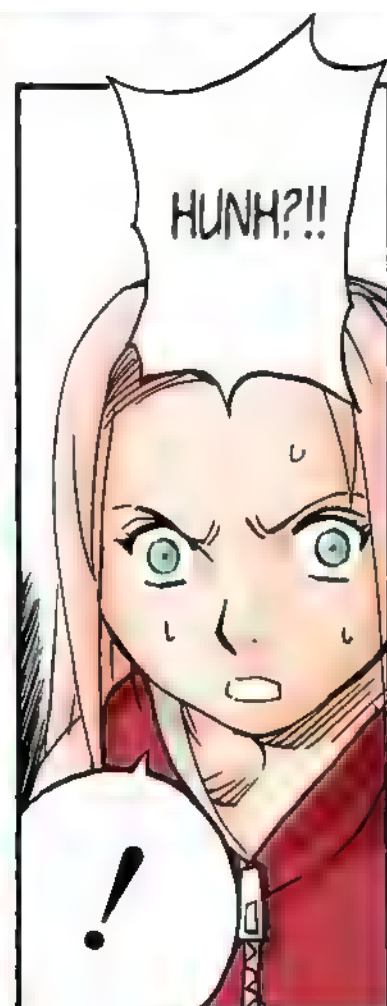
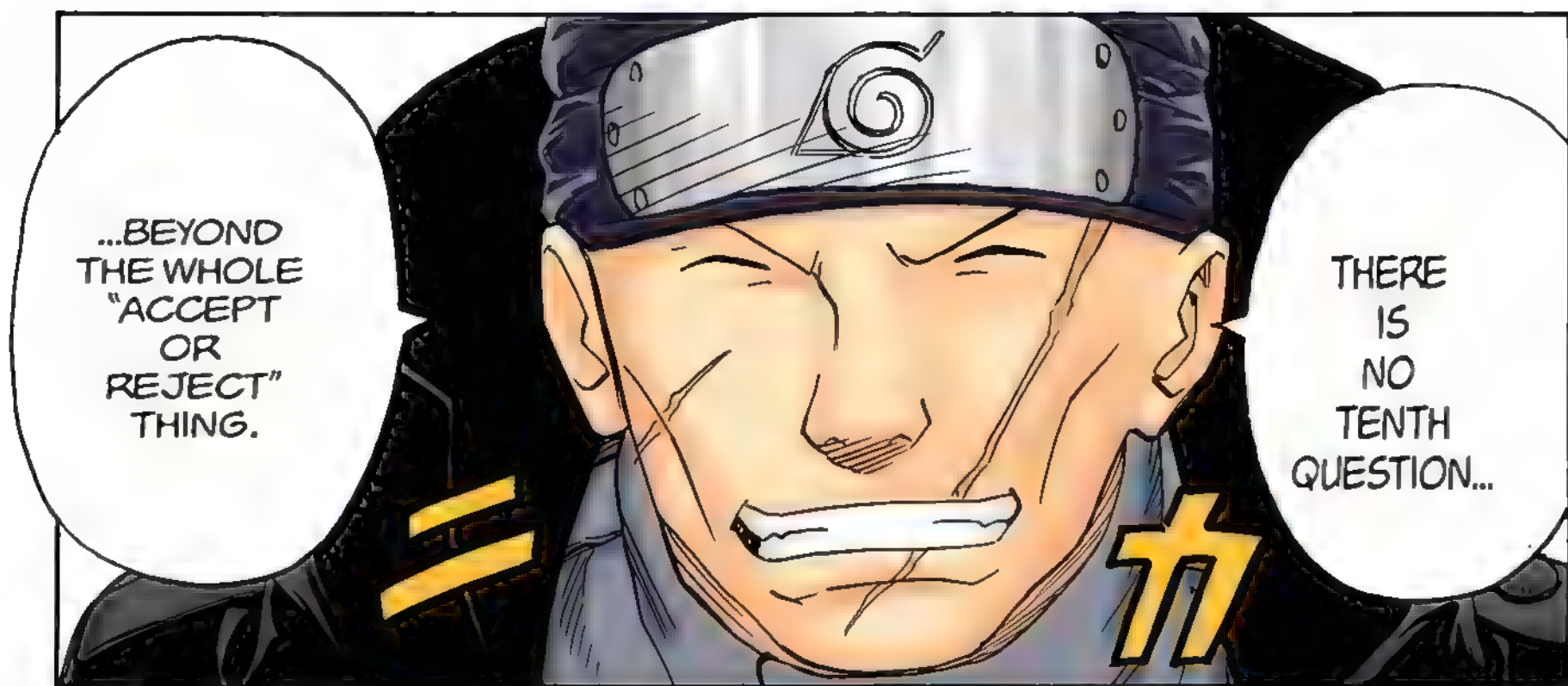
ため  
試された資質...!!  
モ

THE TALENTS WE TEST FOR

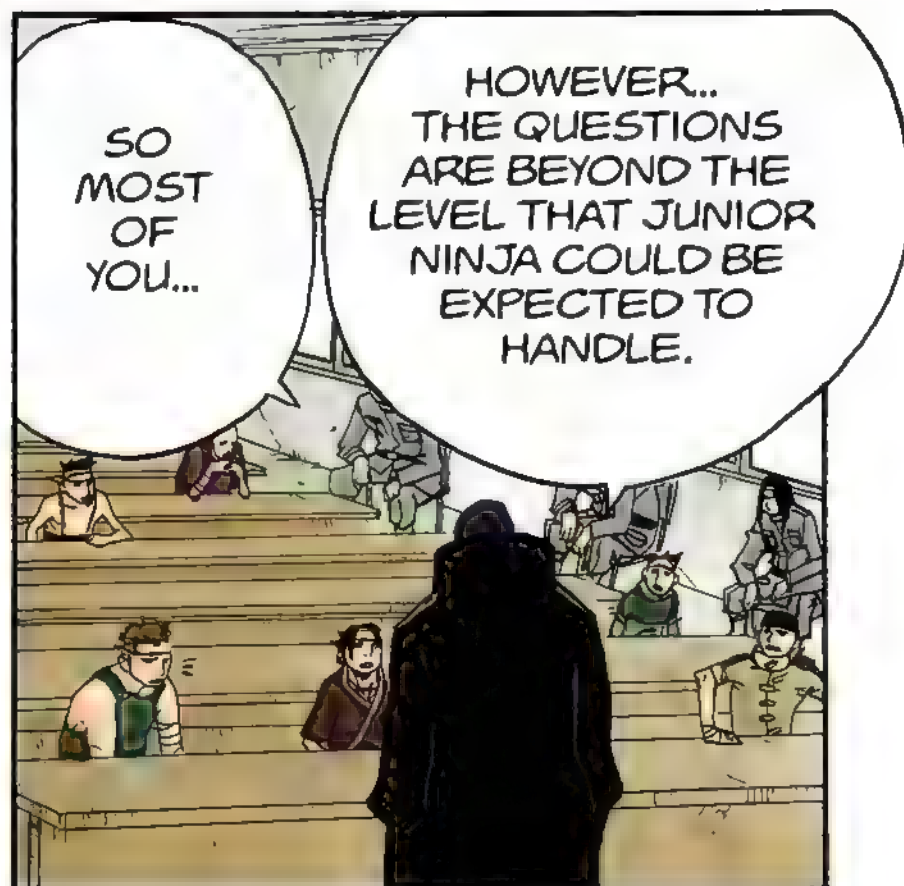
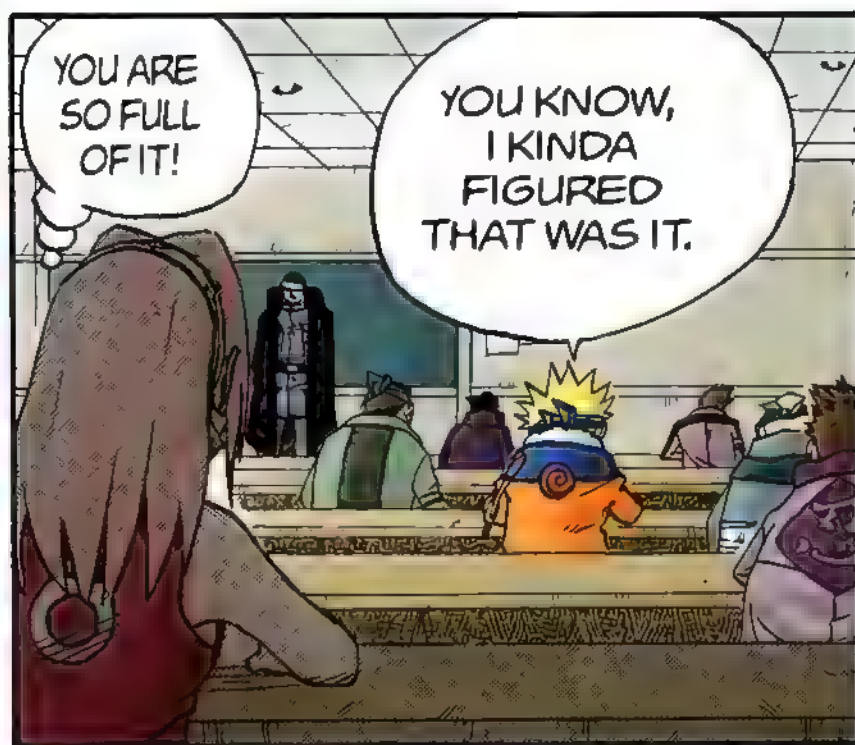
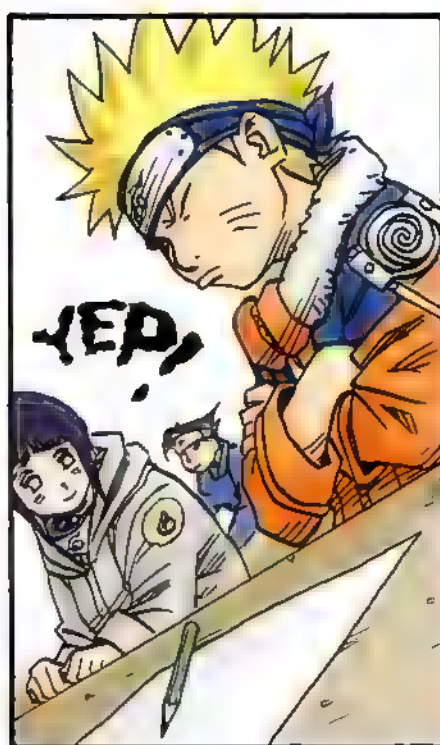
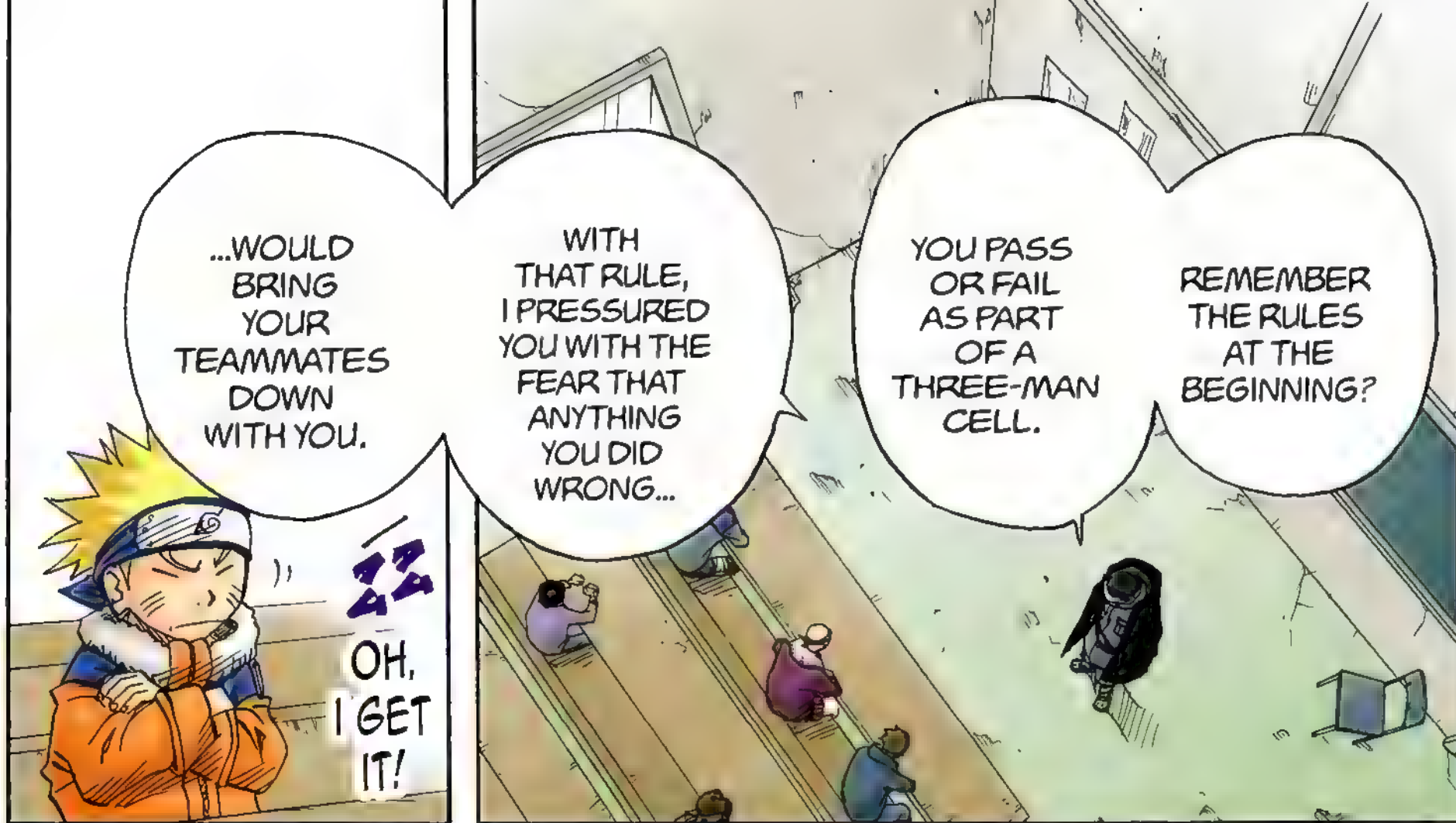
















... TWO JOURNEYMAN NINJA WHO ALREADY KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS.

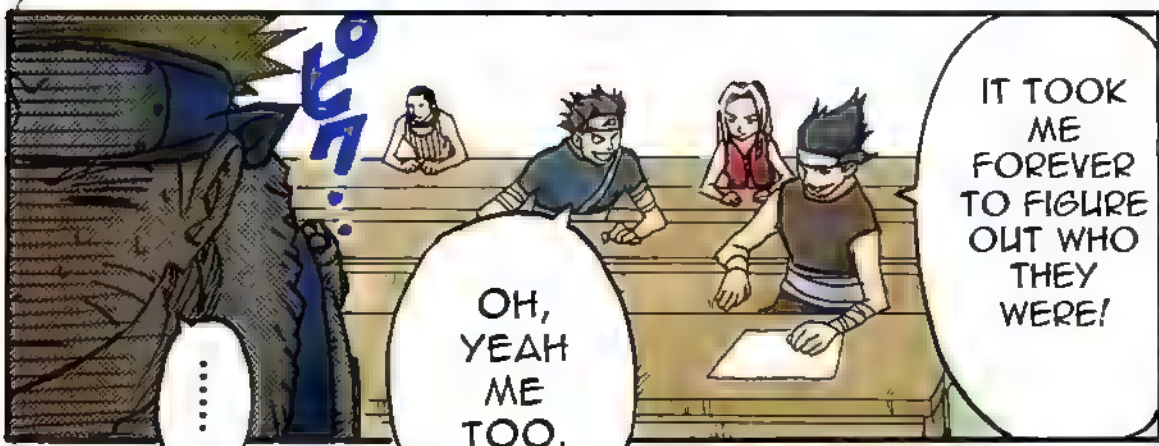


AND, TO ENSURE THERE WOULD BE SUITABLE TARGETS FOR YOU TO CHEAT FROM, WE SNUCK IN A PAIR OF RINGERS...



IN OTHER WORDS... WE SET UP THE ASSUMPTION YOU'D CHEAT.

HMF.



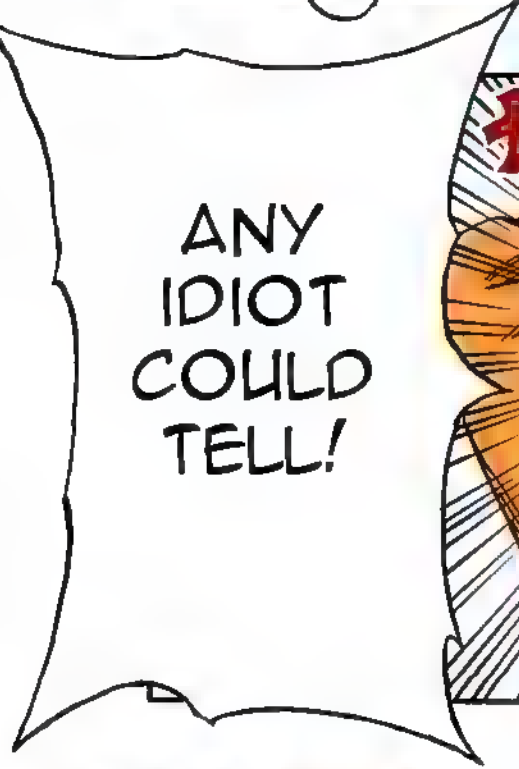
OH, YEAH ME TOO.

IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO FIGURE OUT WHO THEY WERE!

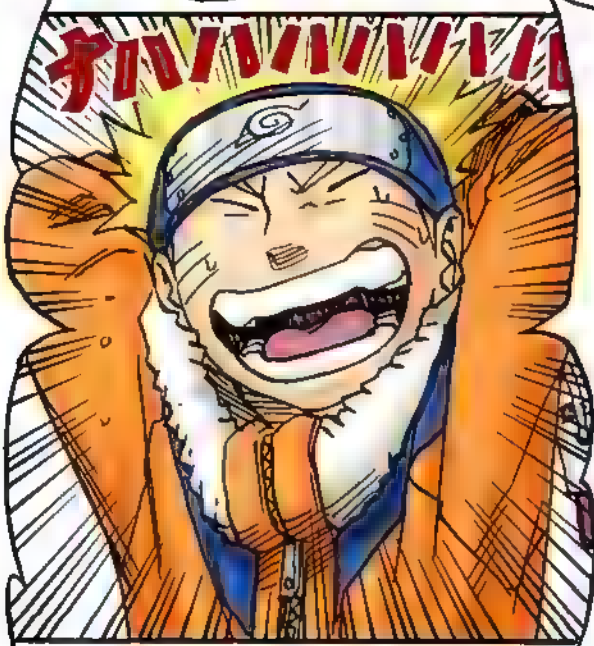


WHAT?

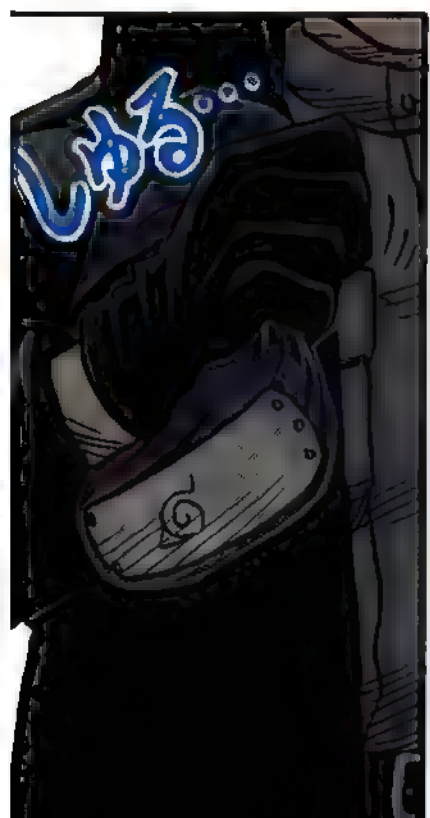
AW, MAN!!!



ANY IDIOT COULD TELL!



HA HA HA! YEAH! IT WAS OBVIOUS!!!



...FAILED.

OF COURSE, ANYONE WHO CHEATED IN A CLUMSY OR OBVIOUS WAY...



THAT FOOL... HE HAD NO IDEA.

RIGHT HINATA?

R-RIGHT...





YOU PAY IN  
WAYS THAT CAN  
BE TAKEN FROM  
YOU LITTLE BY  
LITTLE, TIME AND  
TIME AGAIN,  
WHEN MANY  
LIVES HANG IN  
THE BALANCE.

BECAUSE THERE  
MAY BE  
CIRCUMSTANCES  
WHERE BEING  
CAUGHT IN AN ACT  
OF ESPIONAGE CAN  
COST YOU MORE  
THAN JUST YOUR  
LIFE.



BUT THAT'S  
WHAT HE GETS  
FOR BEING  
DUMB ENOUGH  
TO GET  
CAPTURED.  
IT'LL NEVER  
HAPPEN TO ME!

COOL...  
I BET  
HIS  
HANDS  
ARE  
EVEN  
WORSE!



.....  
!

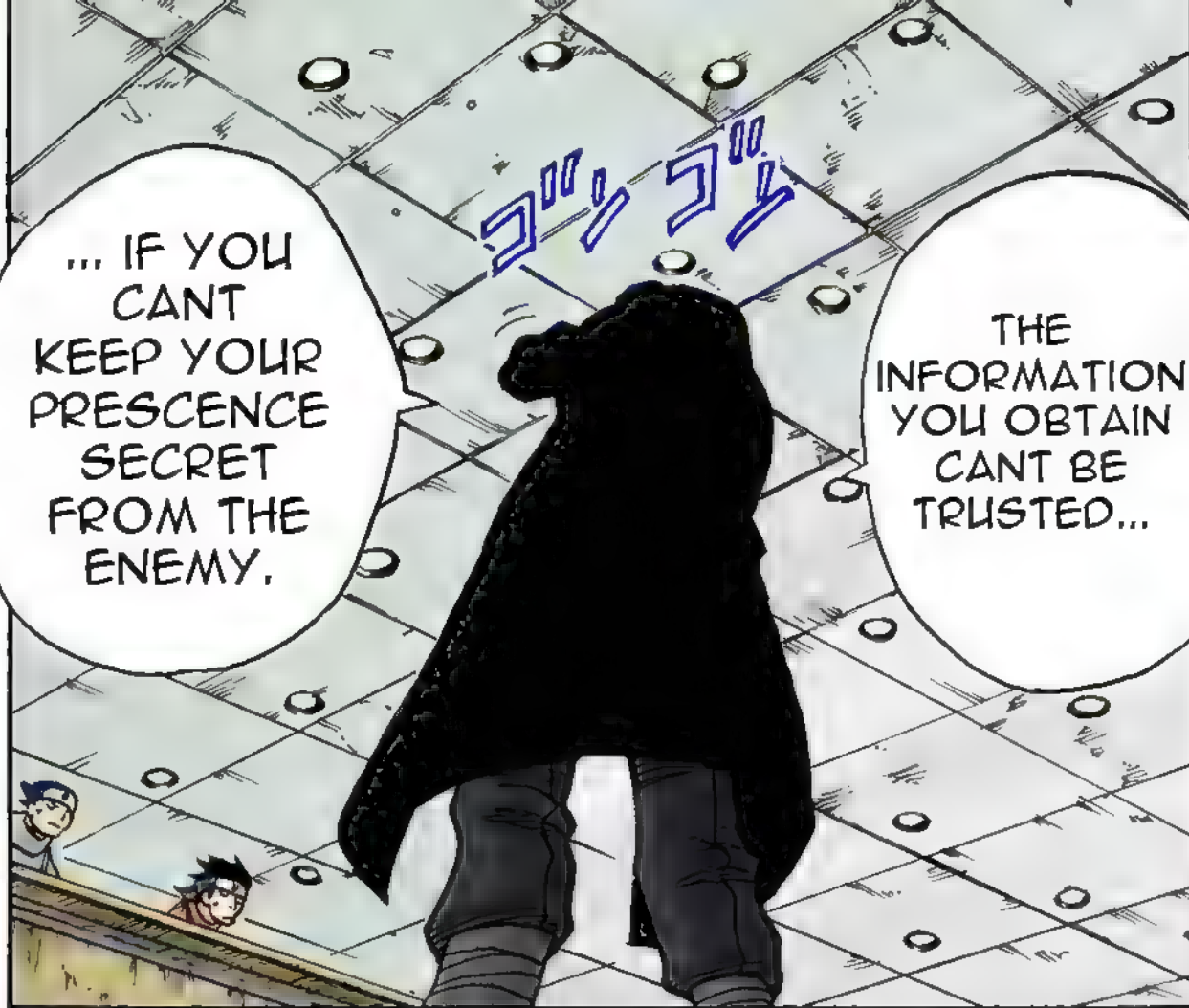
イッ  
!!



BURN SCARS...  
PUNCTURES  
FROM WHERE  
SCREWS WERE  
USED... LONG  
SLASH  
MARKS...

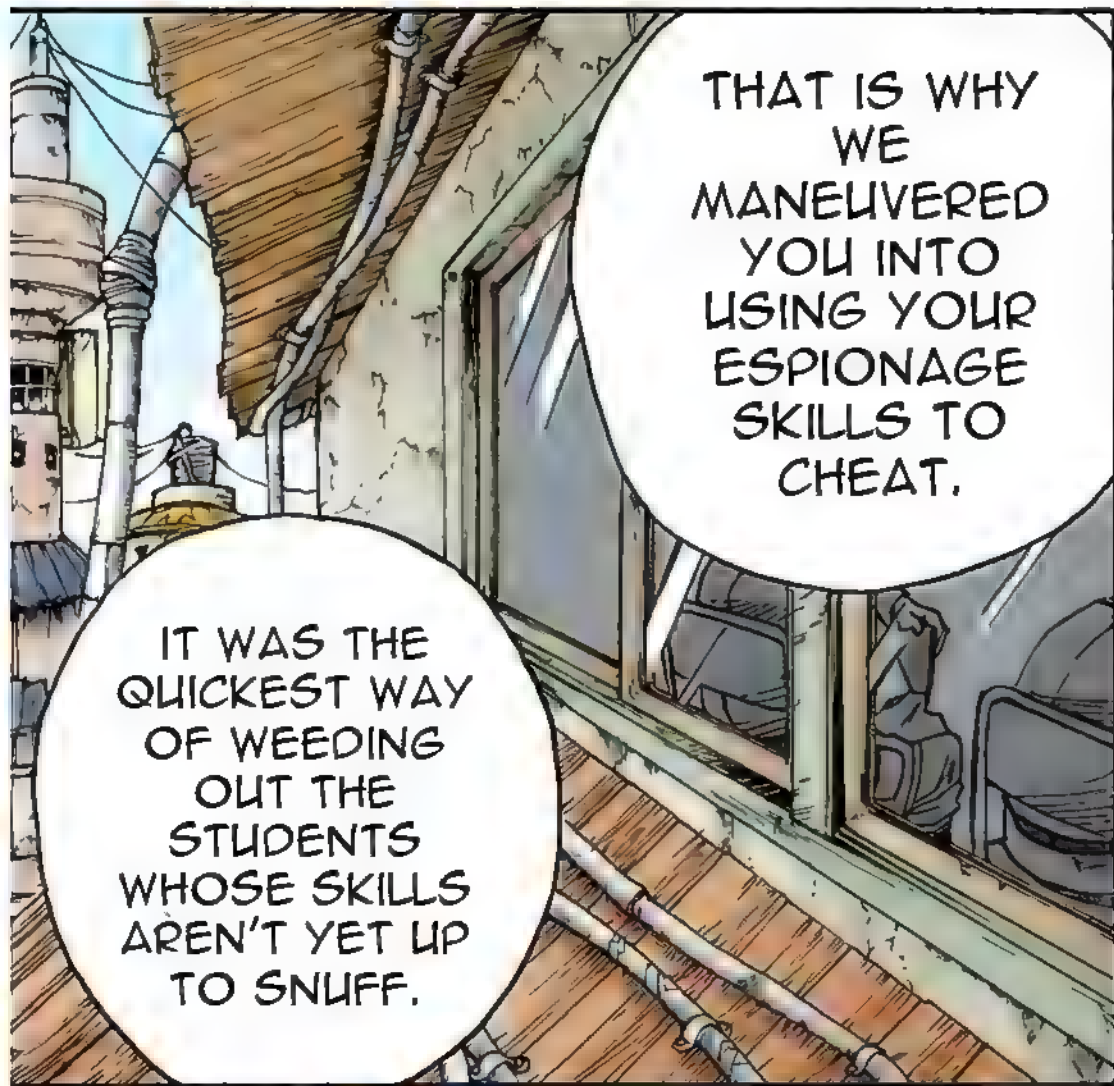
HE'S  
BEEN  
TOR-  
TURED!!





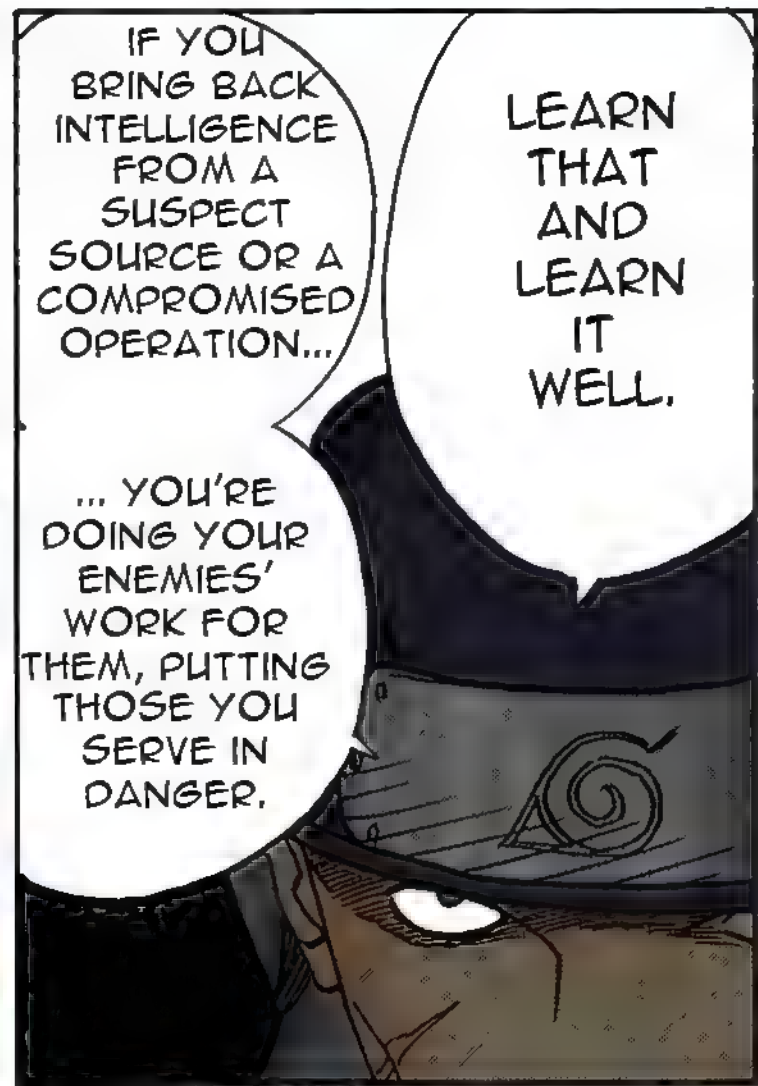
... IF YOU  
CANT  
KEEP YOUR  
PRESCENCE  
SECRET  
FROM THE  
ENEMY.

THE  
INFORMATION  
YOU OBTAIN  
CANT BE  
TRUSTED...



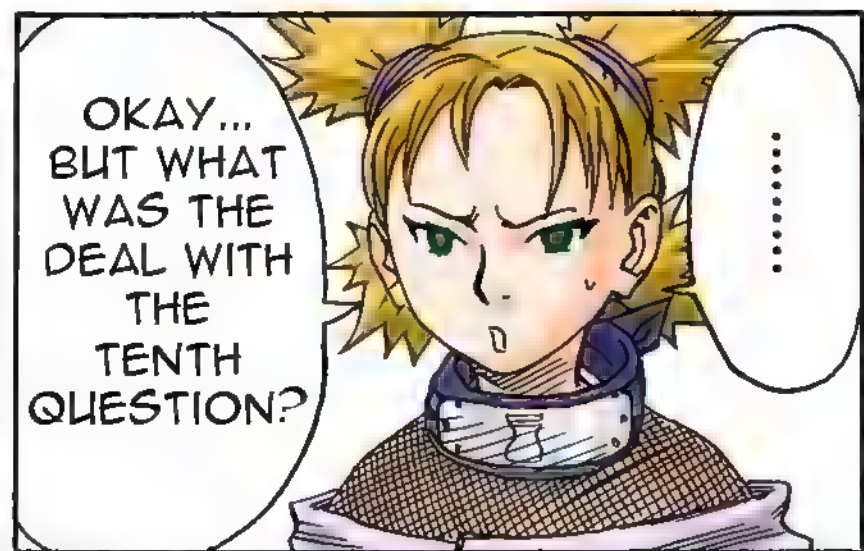
IT WAS THE  
QUICKEST WAY  
OF WEEDING  
OUT THE  
STUDENTS  
WHOSE SKILLS  
AREN'T YET UP  
TO SNUFF.

THAT IS WHY  
WE  
MANELVERED  
YOU INTO  
USING YOUR  
ESPIONAGE  
SKILLS TO  
CHEAT.



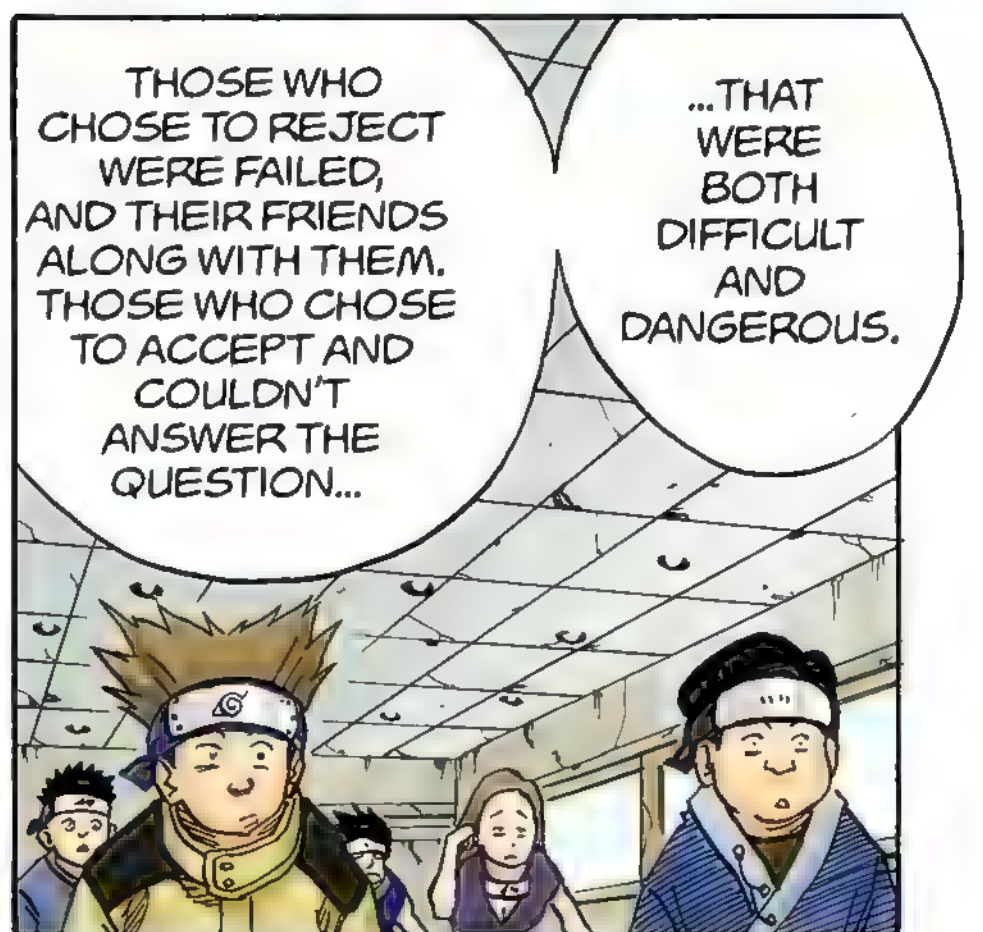
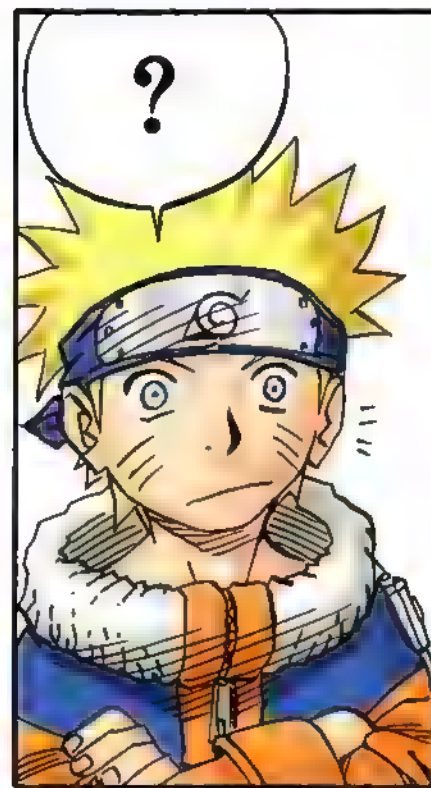
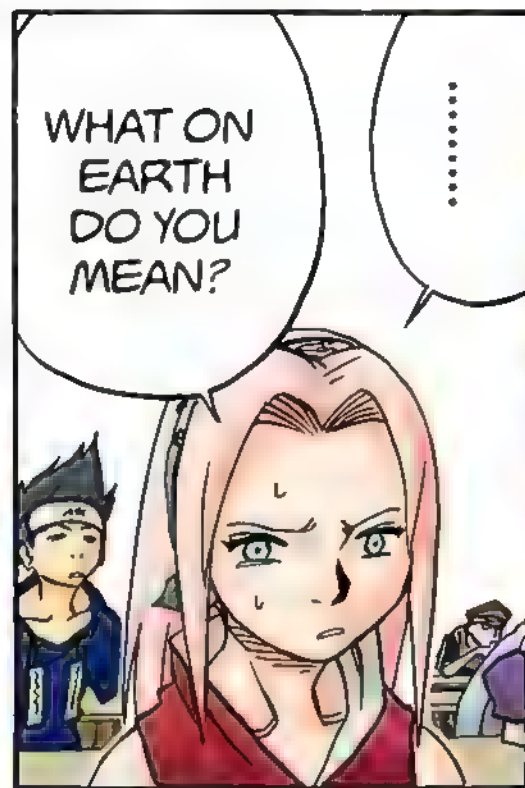
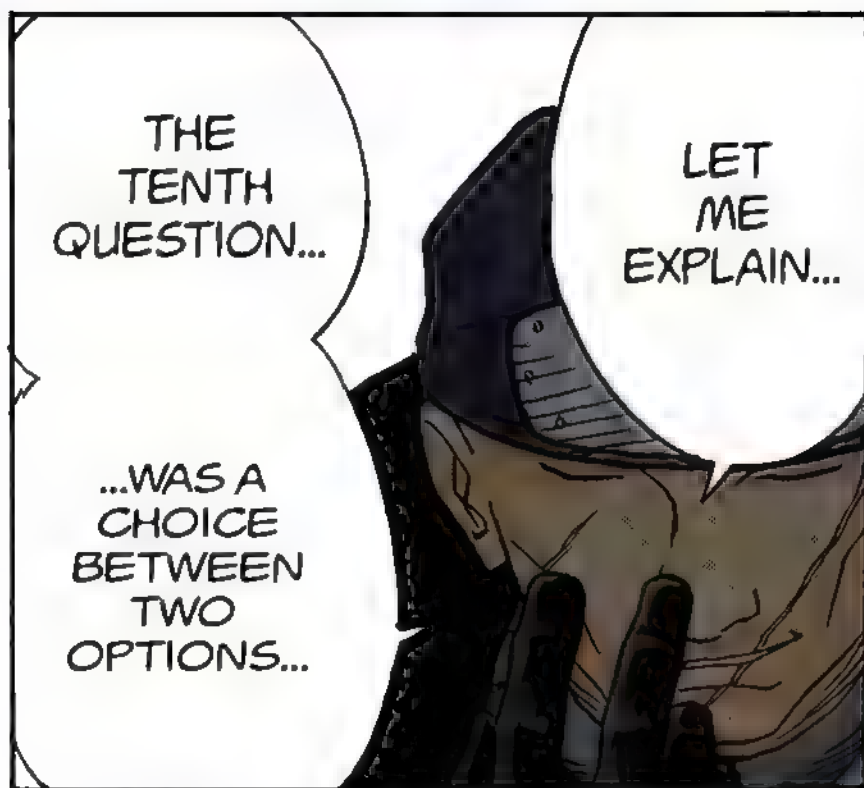
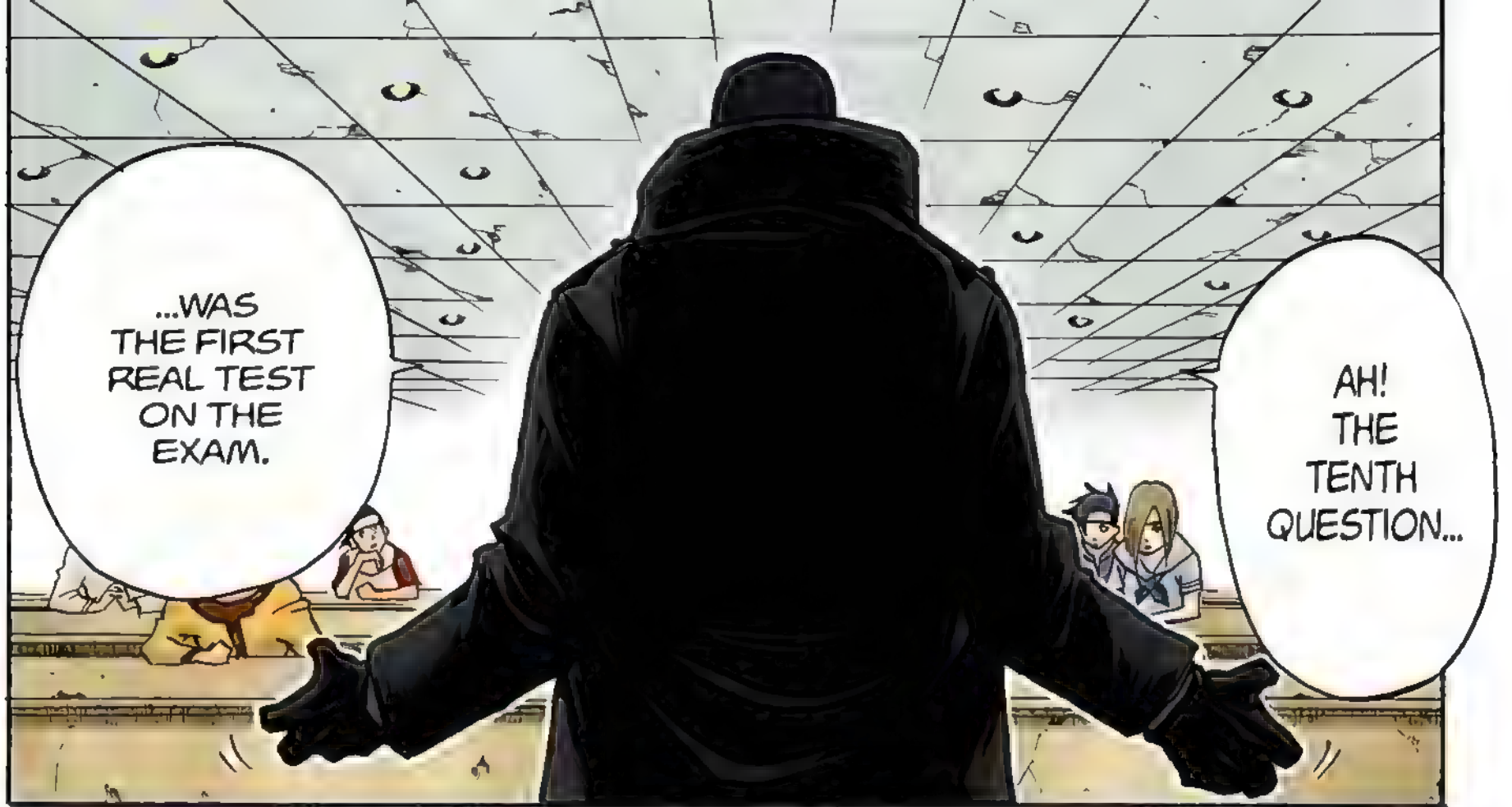
IF YOU  
BRING BACK  
INTELLIGENCE  
FROM A  
SUSPECT  
SOURCE OR A  
COMPROMISED  
OPERATION...  
  
... YOU'RE  
DOING YOUR  
ENEMIES'  
WORK FOR  
THEM, PUTTING  
THOSE YOU  
SERVE IN  
DANGER.

LEARN  
THAT  
AND  
LEARN  
IT  
WELL.



OKAY...  
BUT WHAT  
WAS THE  
DEAL WITH  
THE  
TENTH  
QUESTION?



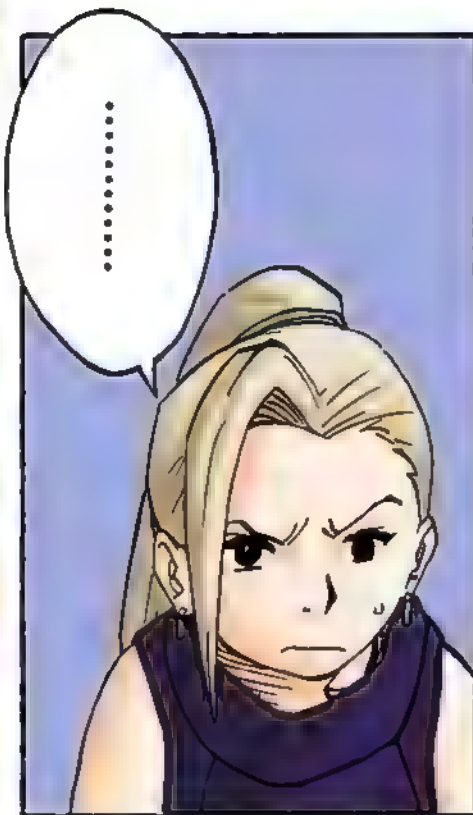






LET'S  
SUPPOSE  
YOU ALL  
GO ON TO  
SUCCESSFULLY  
ATTAIN THE  
RANK OF  
CHŪNIN.

SO  
WHY  
DID I  
PRESENT  
THEM?



NOW...  
DO YOU  
ACCEPT  
YOUR  
MISSION?  
OR DO  
YOU  
REJECT  
IT...

YOU MAY  
HAVE TO  
CROSS A  
TERRITORY  
THAT HAS  
BEEN HEAVILY  
MINED  
AND SET  
WITH TRAPS.

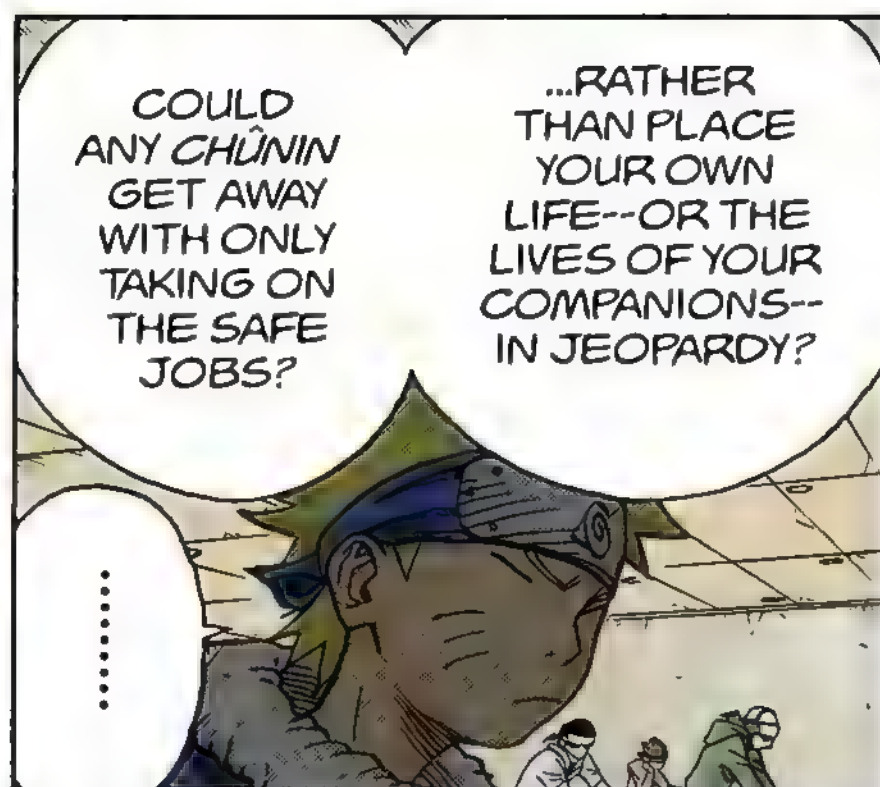


...KNOWING  
NOTHING  
ABOUT THE  
SKILLS,  
DEPLOYMENT,  
OR MILITARY  
PREPAREDNESS  
OF YOUR FOE.

YOU ARE  
ASSIGNED  
TO STEAL  
A VITAL  
ENEMY  
DOCUMENT...



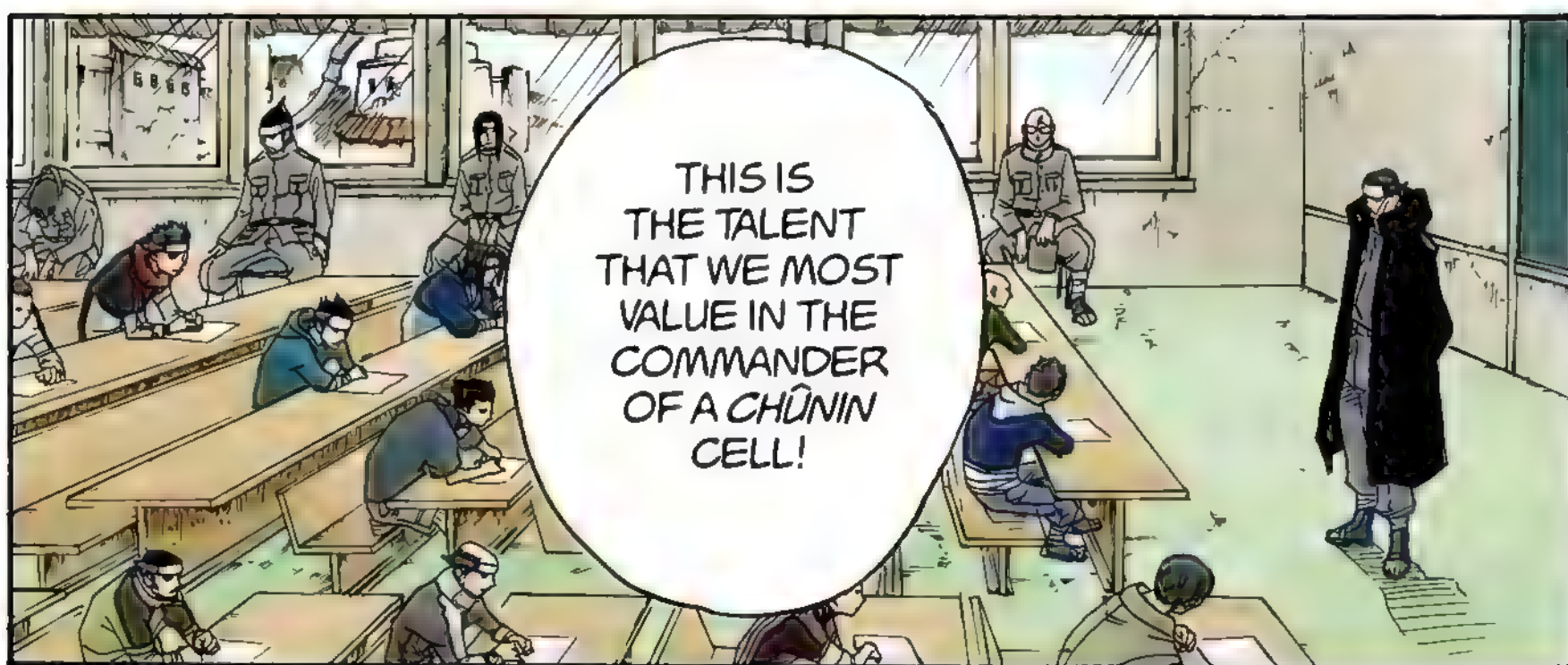
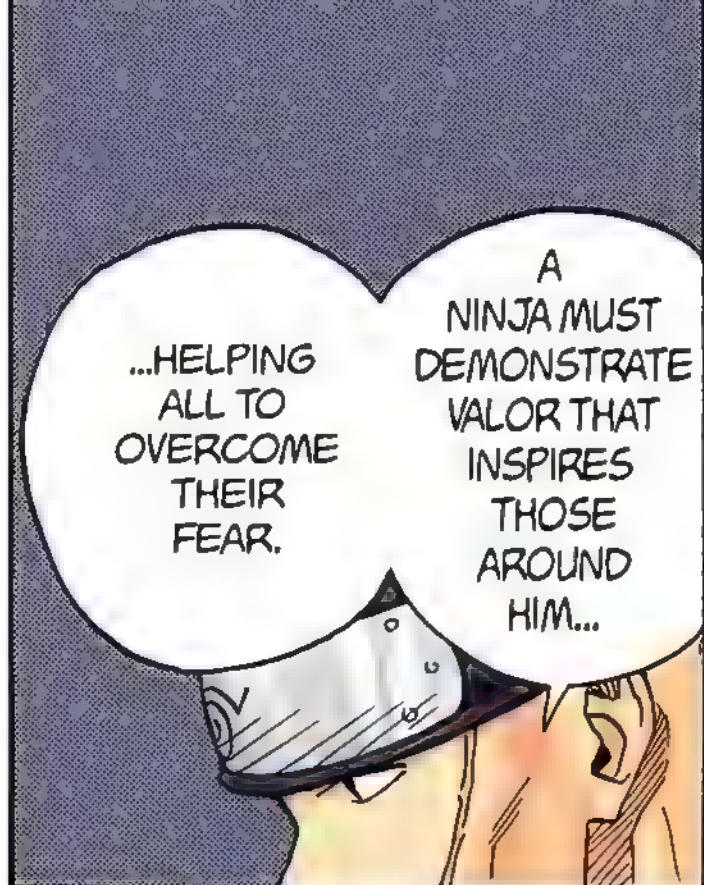
OF  
COURSE  
NOT!



COULD  
ANY CHŪNIN  
GET AWAY  
WITH ONLY  
TAKING ON  
THE SAFE  
JOBS?

...RATHER  
THAN PLACE  
YOUR OWN  
LIFE--OR THE  
LIVES OF YOUR  
COMPANIONS--  
IN JEOPARDY?









IF YOU  
KEEP THAT  
SPIRIT,  
YOU CAN  
PROBABLY  
CONQUER ALL  
OF THE MANY  
DOUBTS AND  
DIFFICULTIES  
YOU'LL FACE.

...YOU  
ANSWERED  
THE ALMOST-  
INSOLUBLE  
TENTH  
QUESTION  
CORRECTLY.

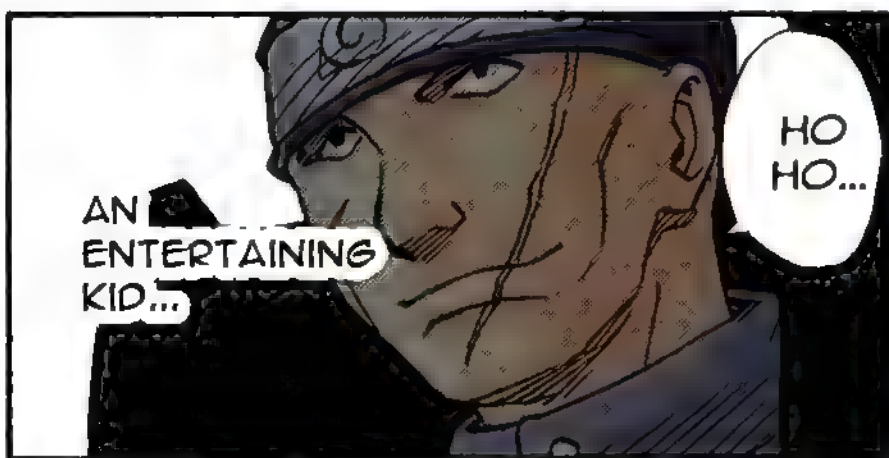


BY  
CHOOSING  
TO  
ACCEPT...



I'LL  
PRAY  
YOU FIGHT  
THE GOOD  
FIGHT!

YOU'VE  
PASSED  
THE FIRST  
HURDLE.  
PART ONE  
OF THE  
CHŪNIN  
SELECTION  
EXAM IS NOW  
CONCLUDED.

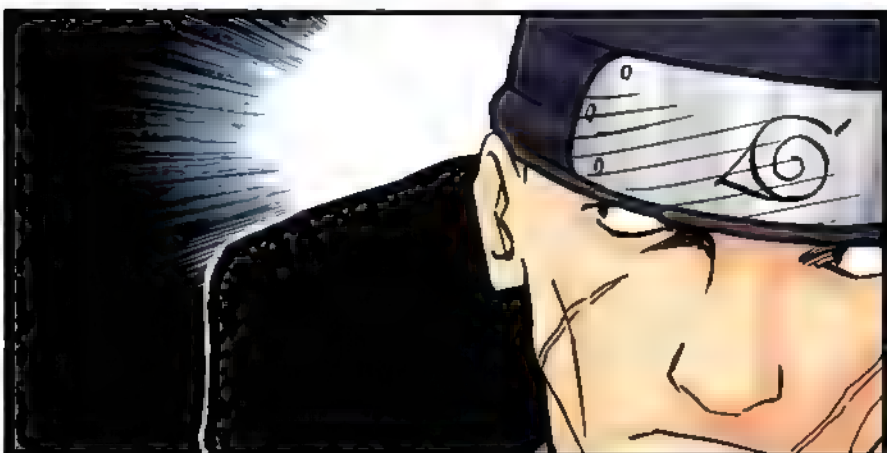


AN  
ENTERTAINING  
KID...

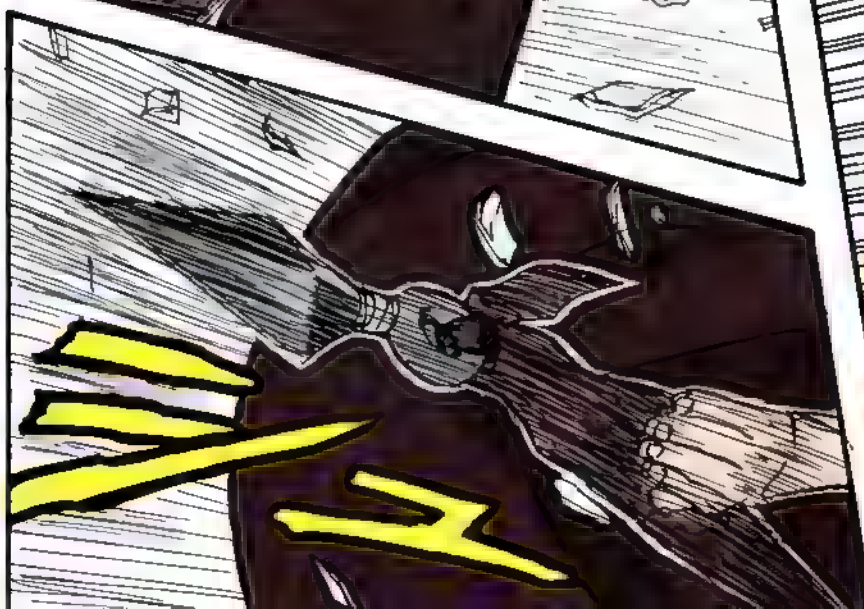
HO  
HO...



YEAH.  
YOU  
DO  
THAT!  
GO  
PRAY!



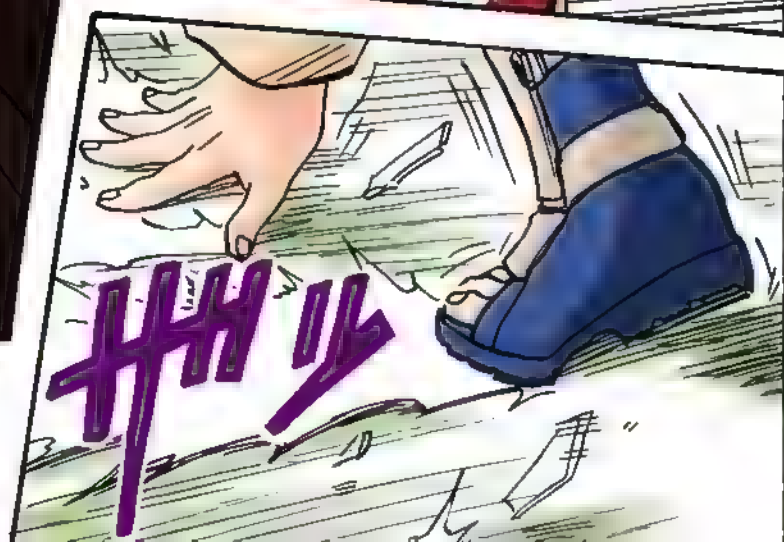
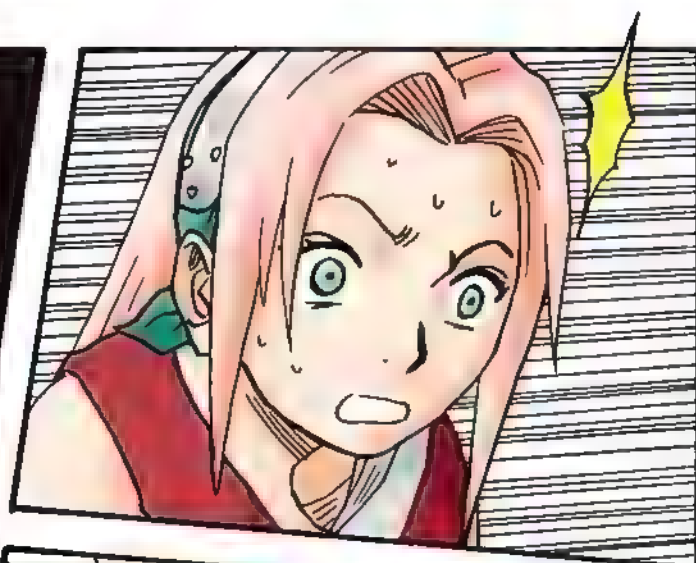
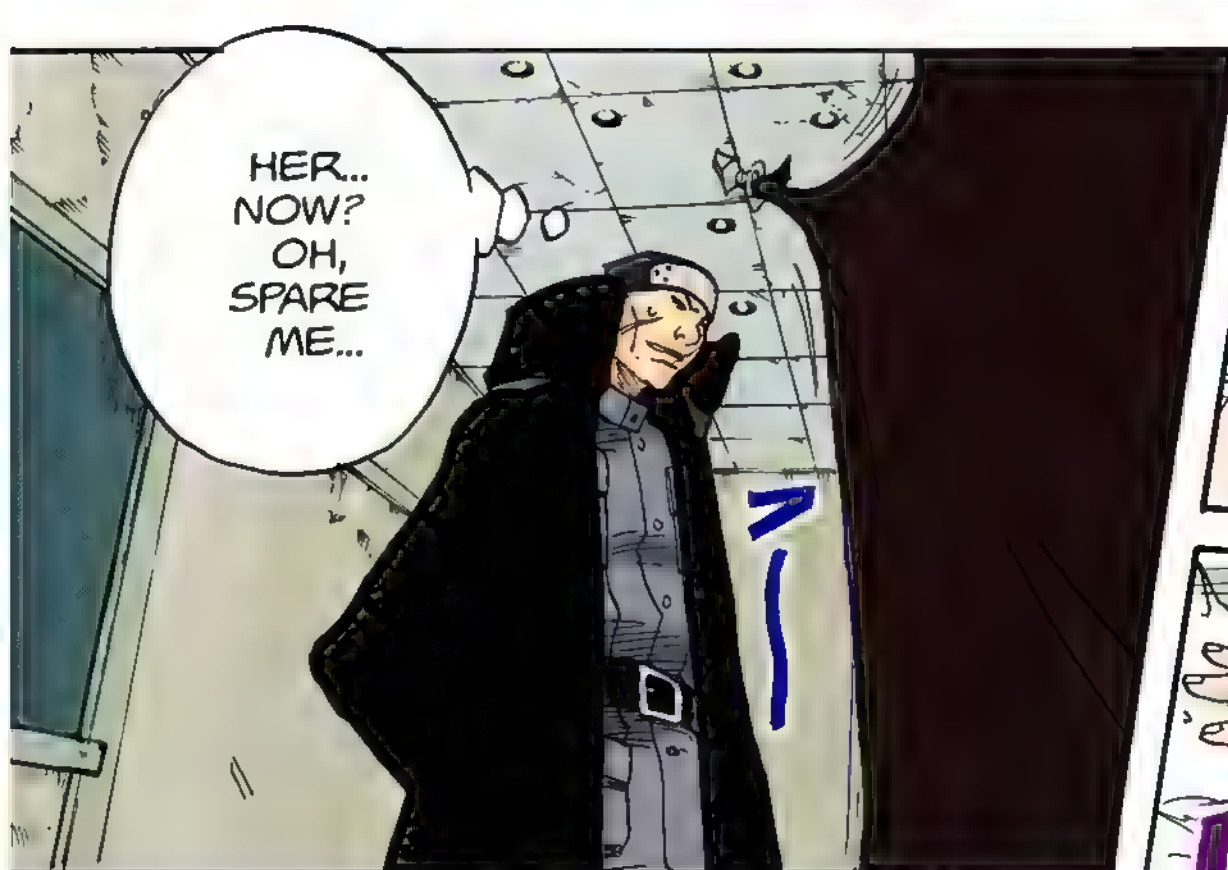
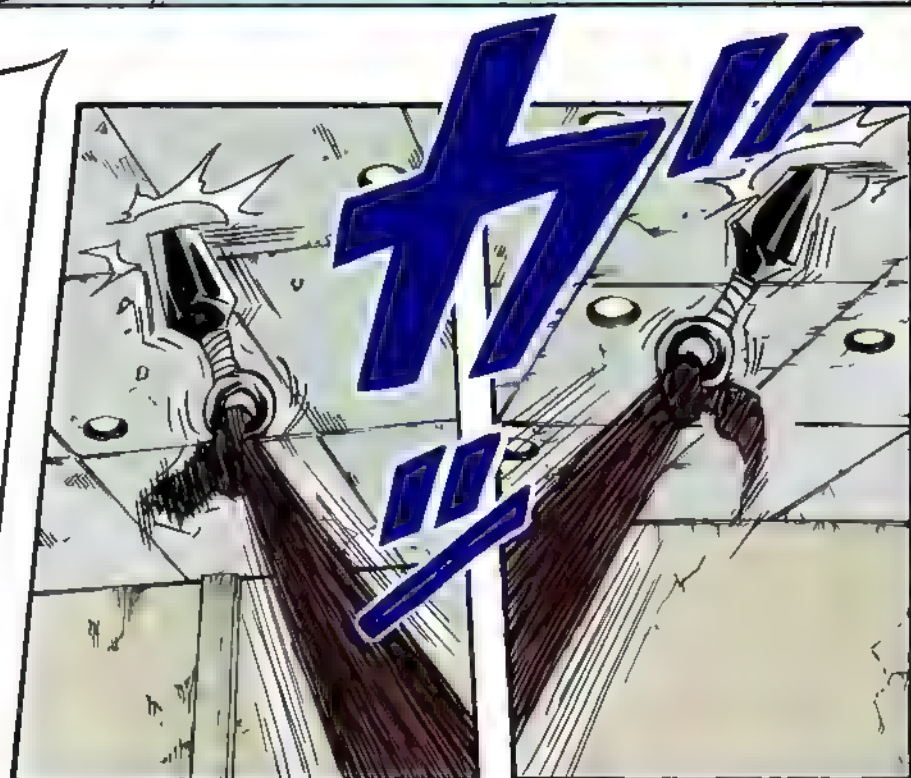








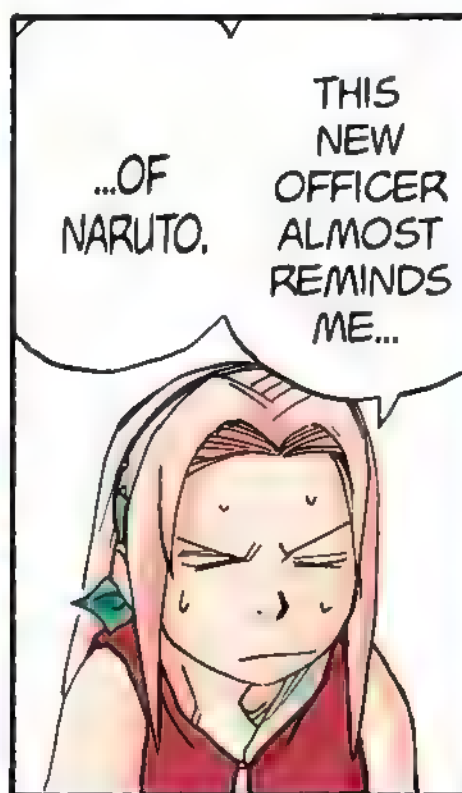
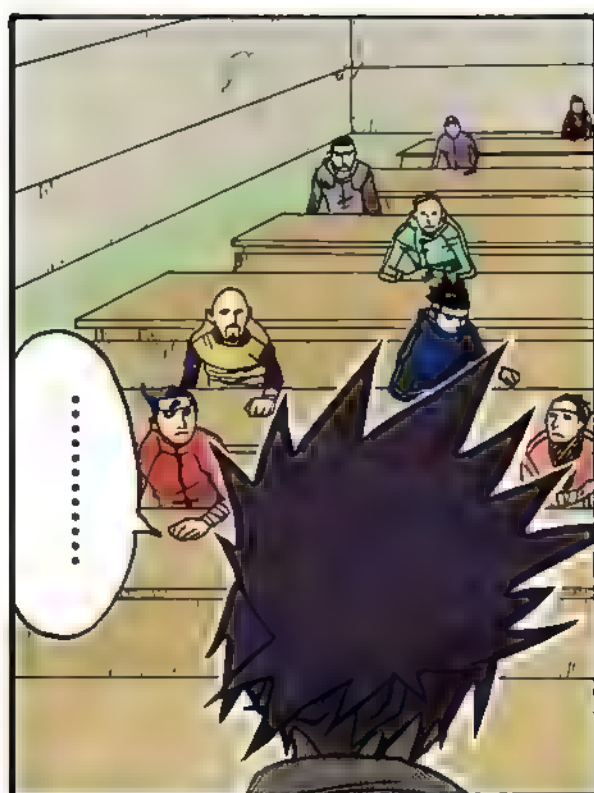
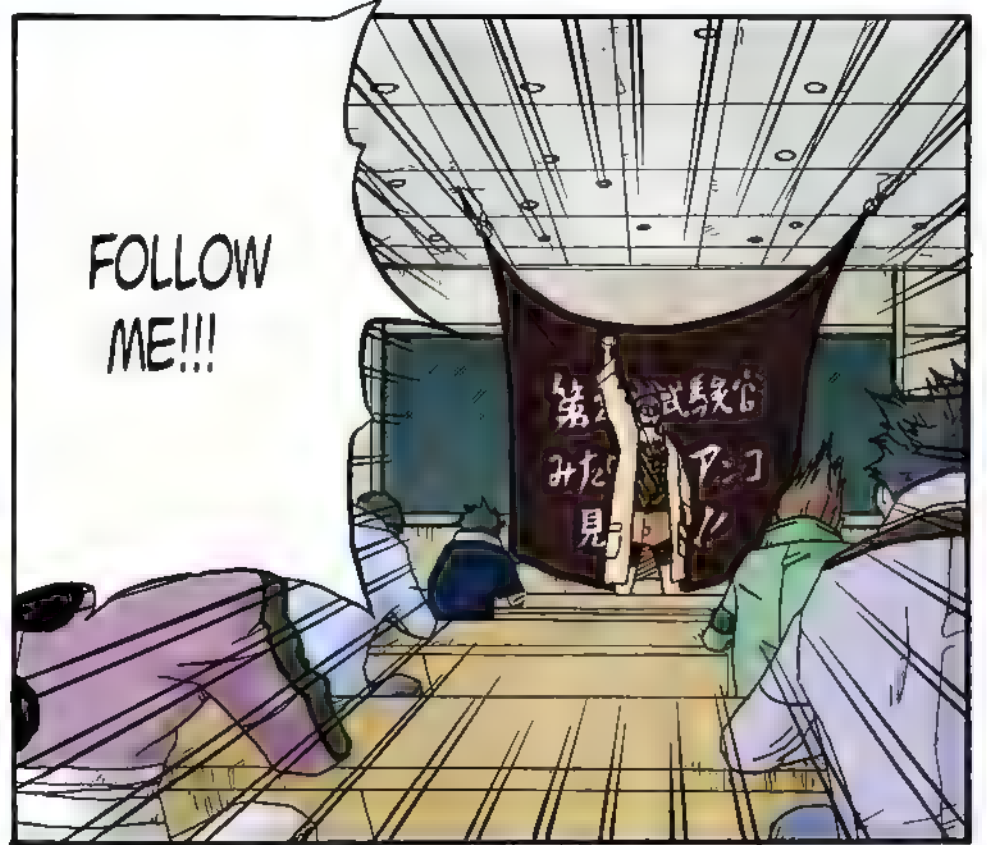
WH-  
WHAT  
THE--



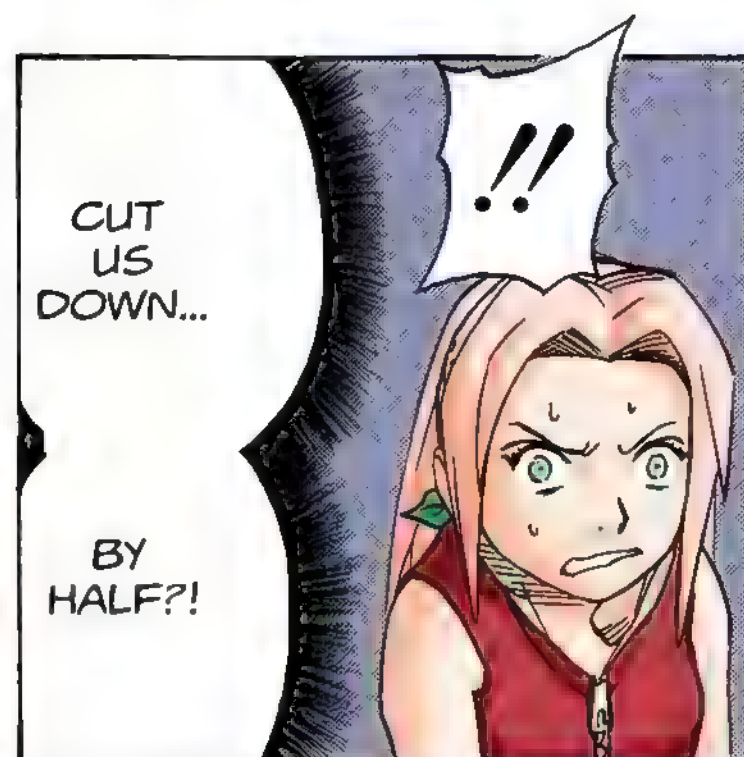
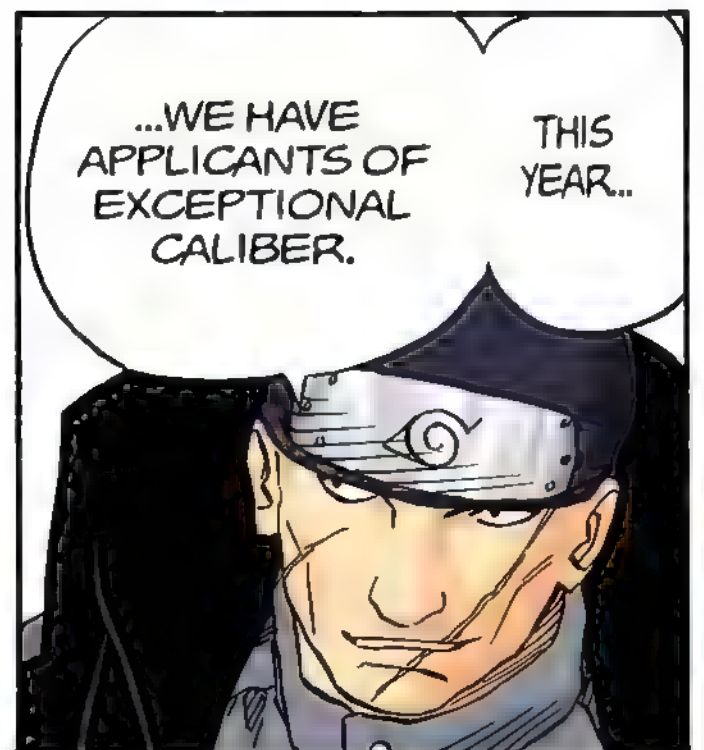
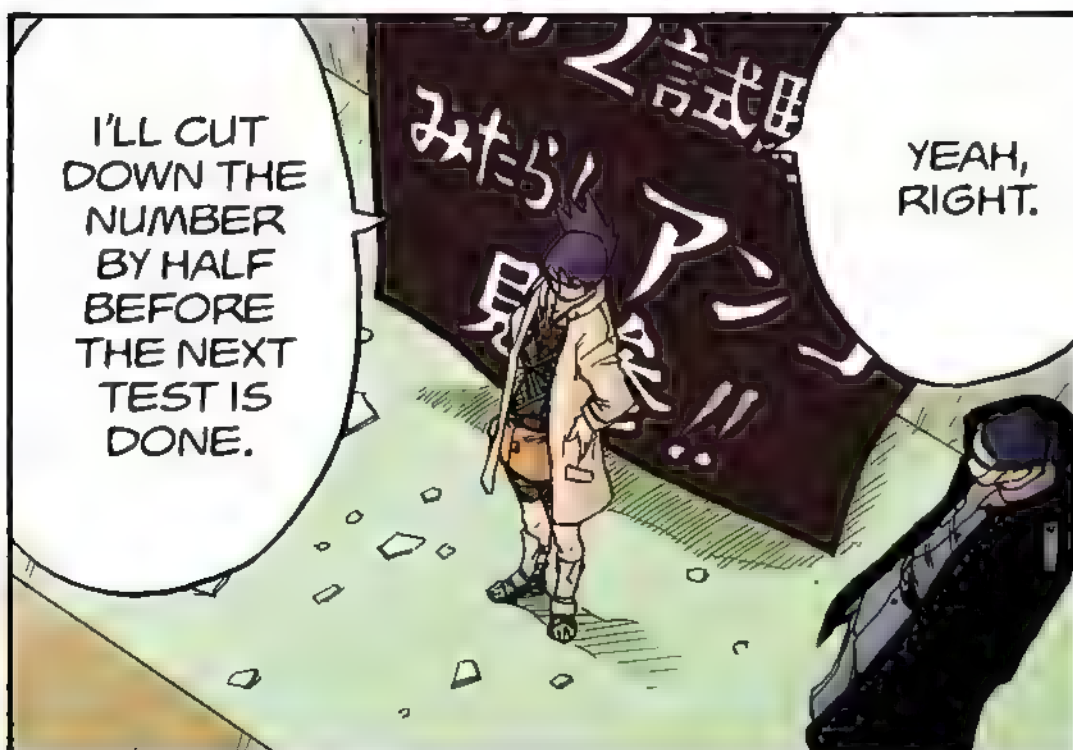


NONE  
OF  
YOU  
ARE  
IN  
ANY  
POSITION  
TO  
CELEBRATE.

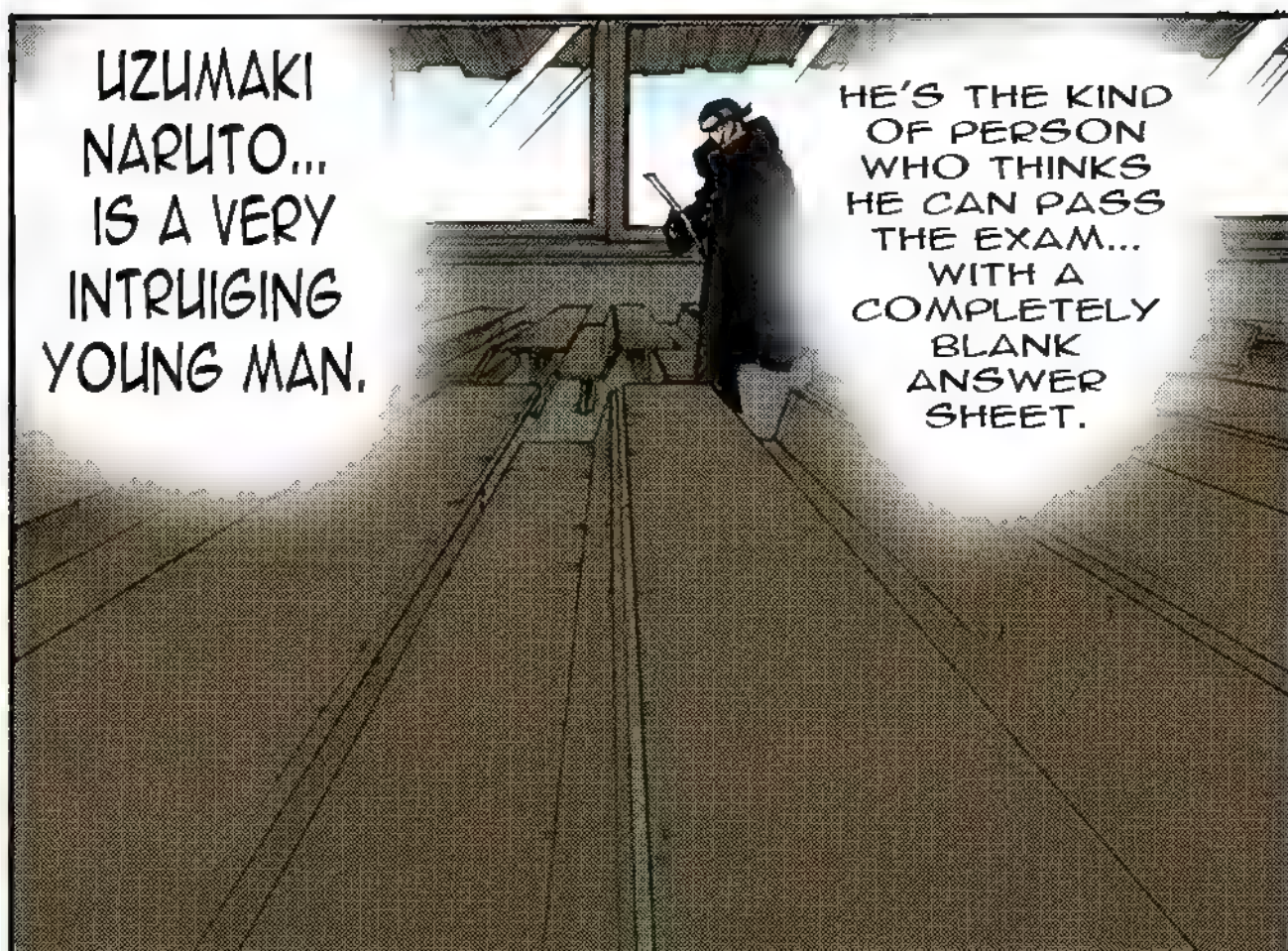
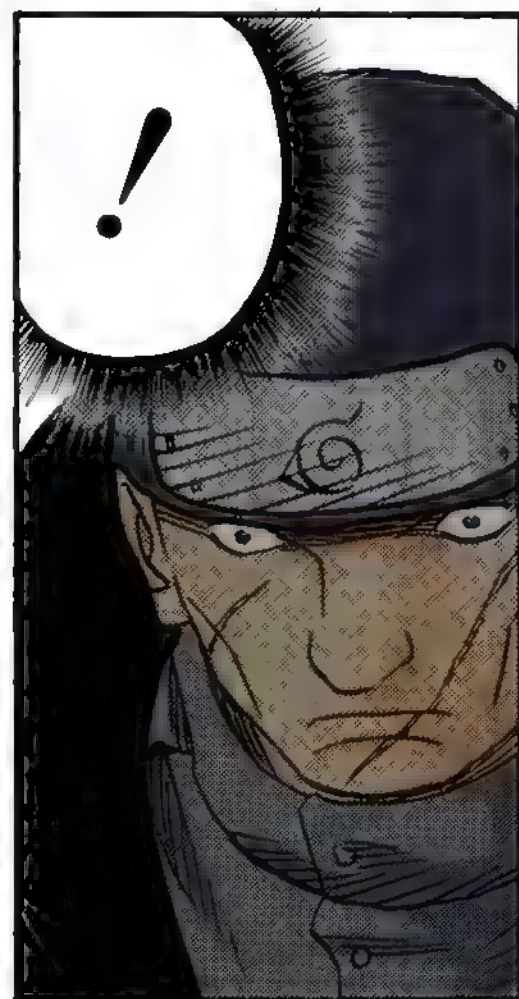
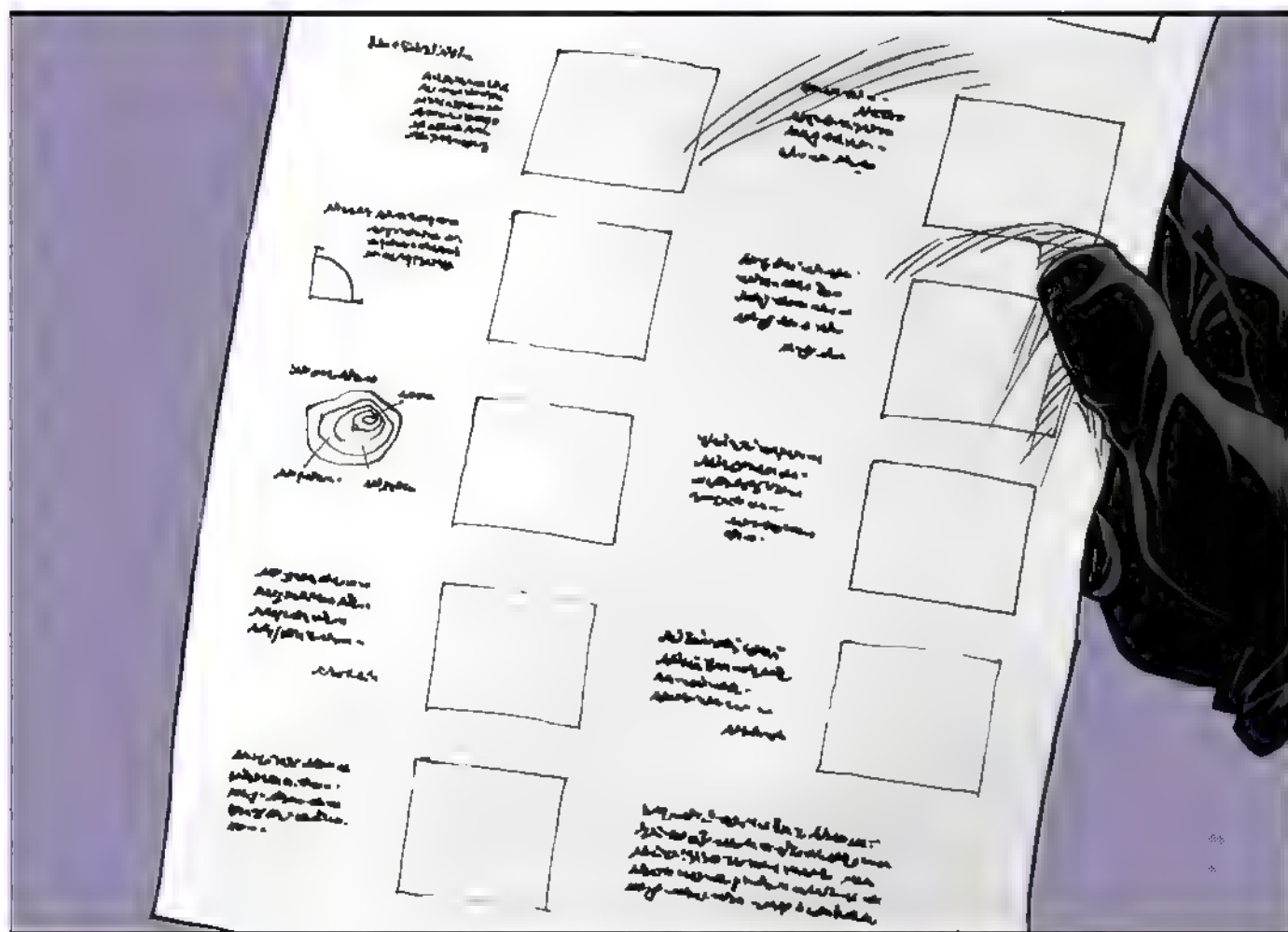
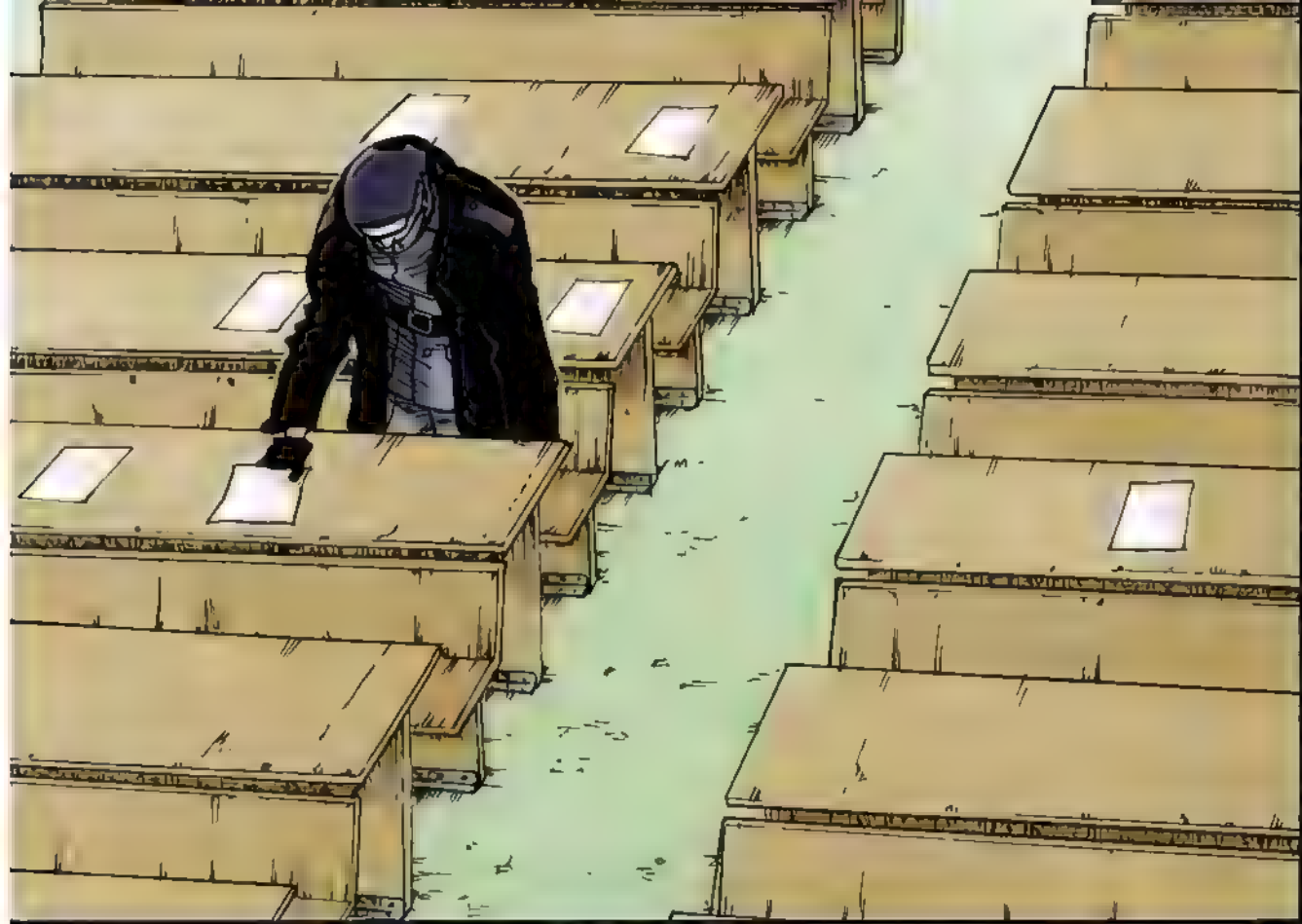












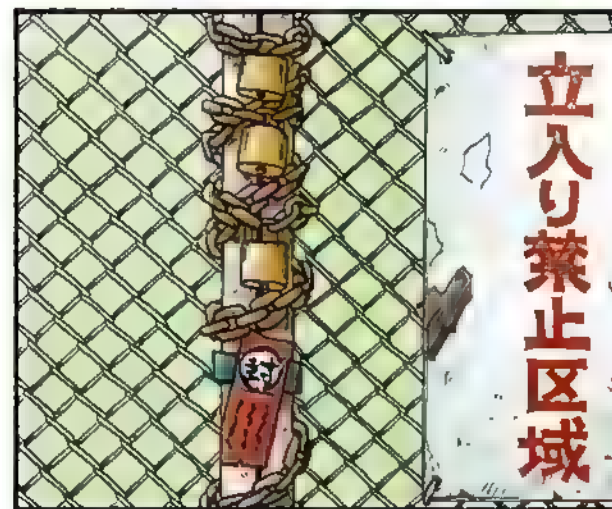
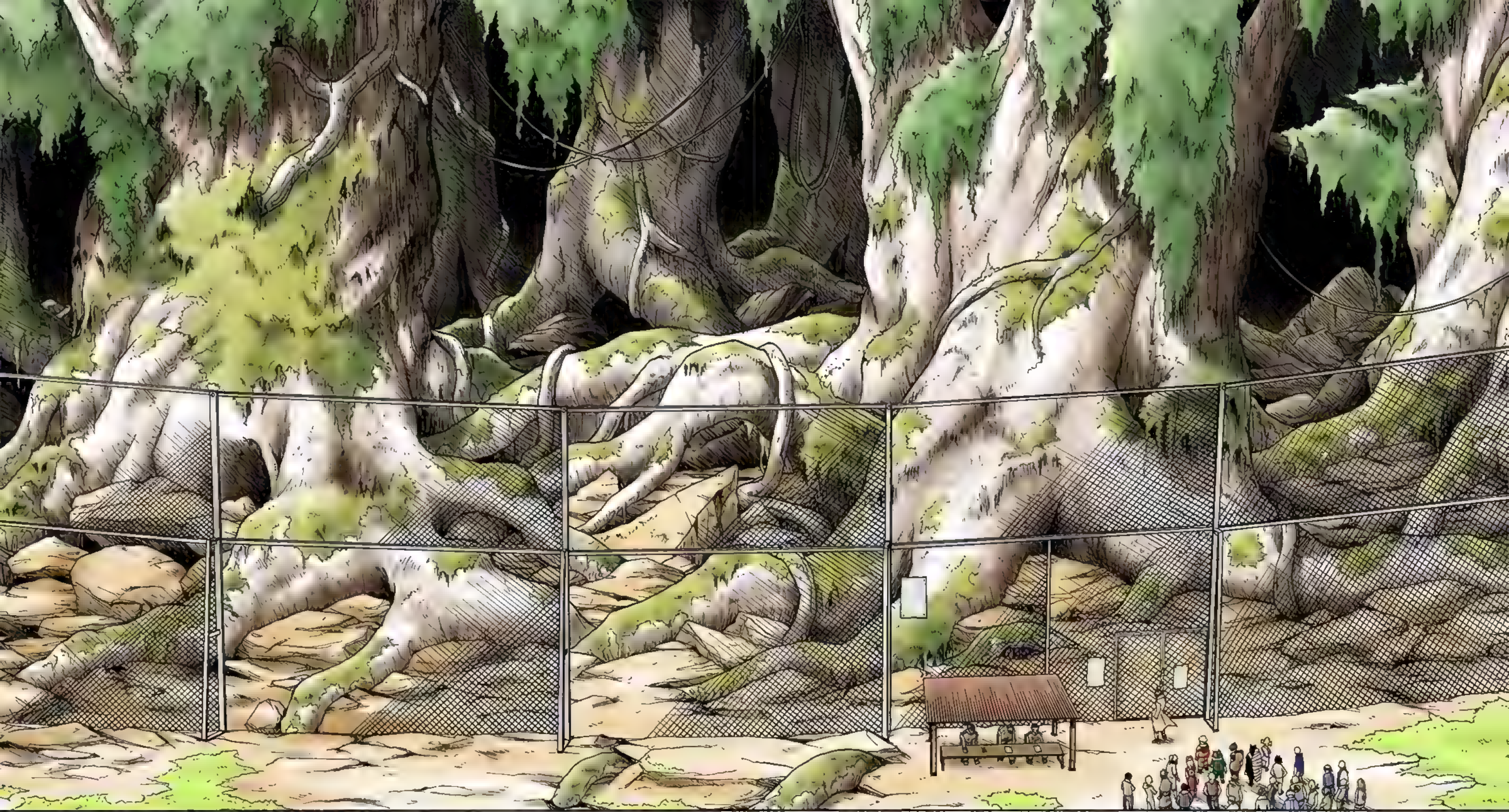
UZUMAKI  
NARUTO...  
IS A VERY  
INTRUIGING  
YOUNG MAN.

HE'S THE KIND  
OF PERSON  
WHO THINKS  
HE CAN PASS  
THE EXAM...  
WITH A  
COMPLETELY  
BLANK  
ANSWER  
SHEET.



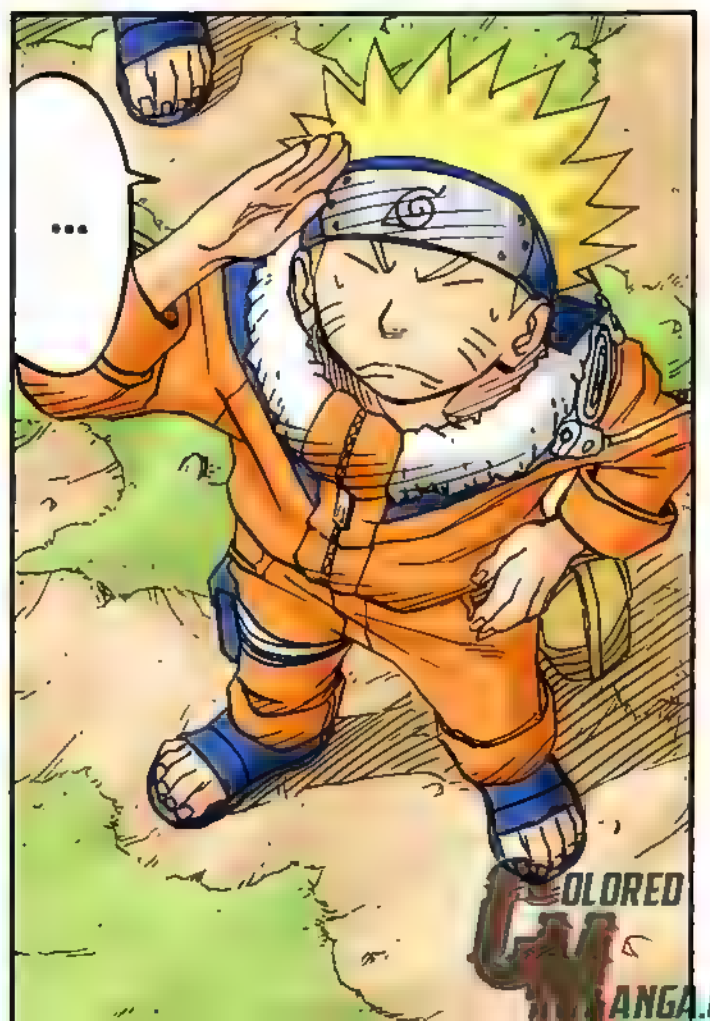
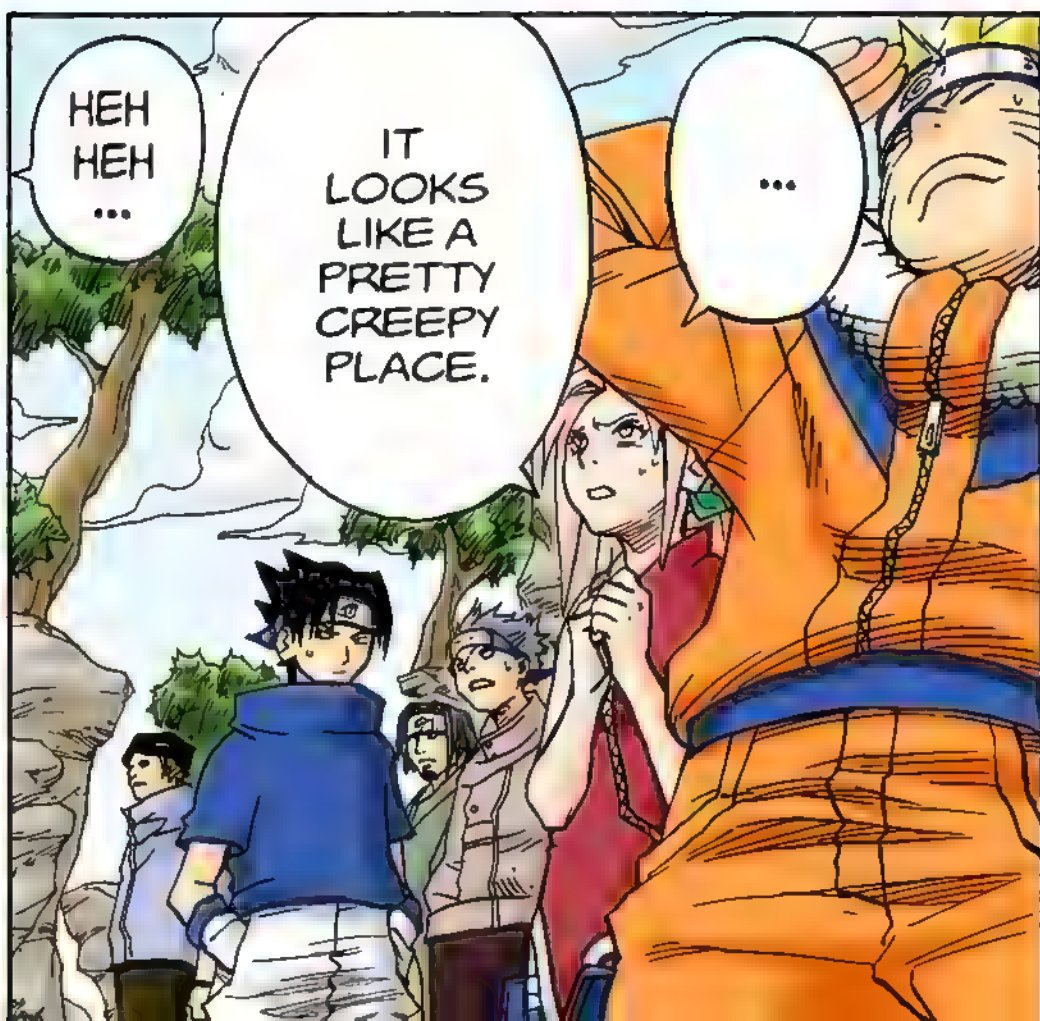
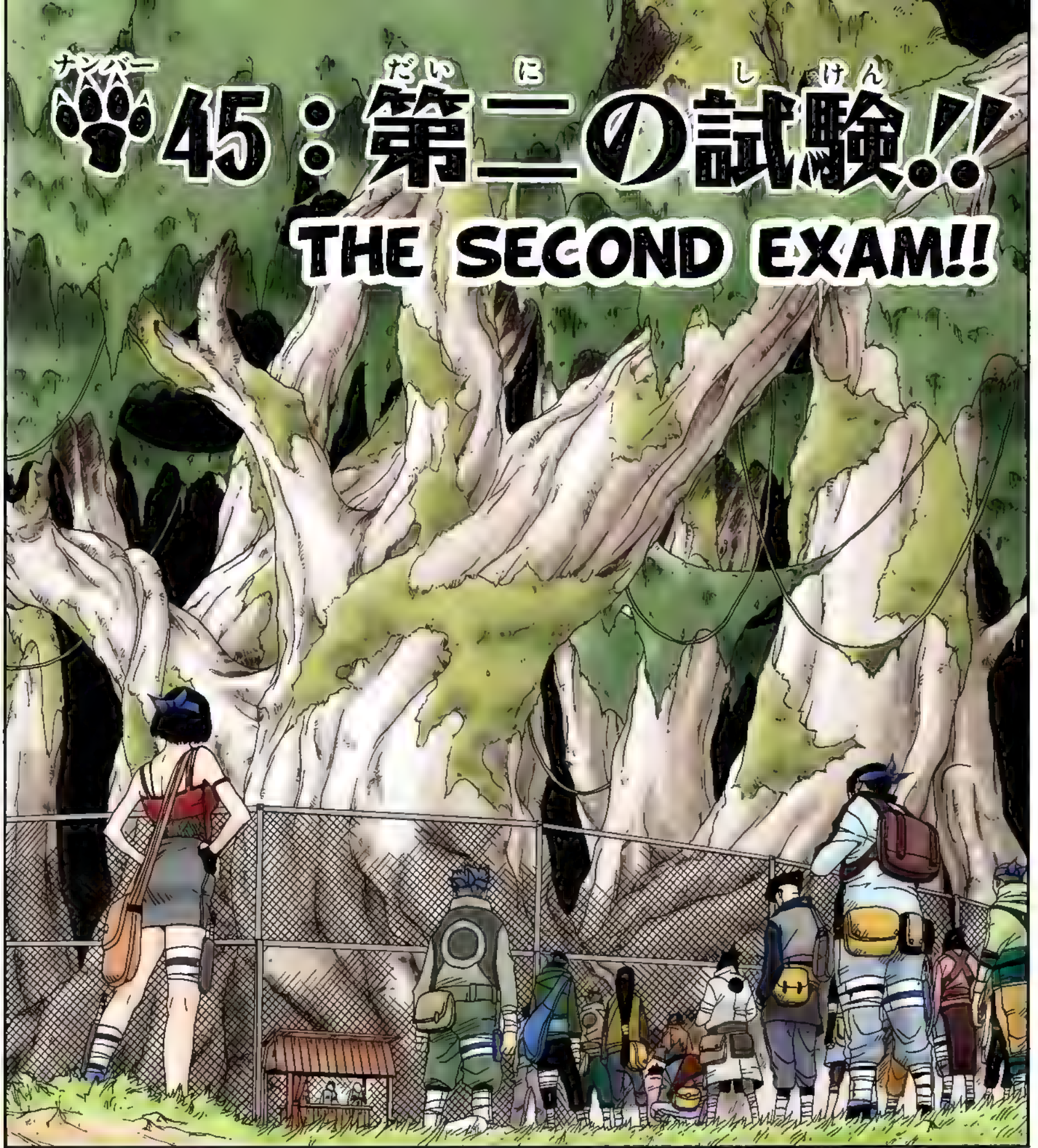
HUH.



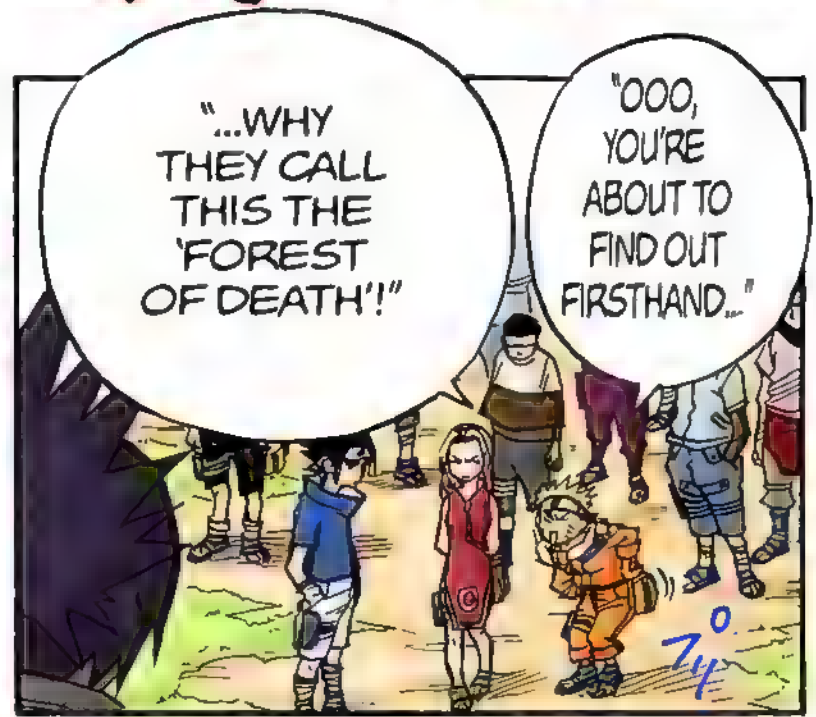
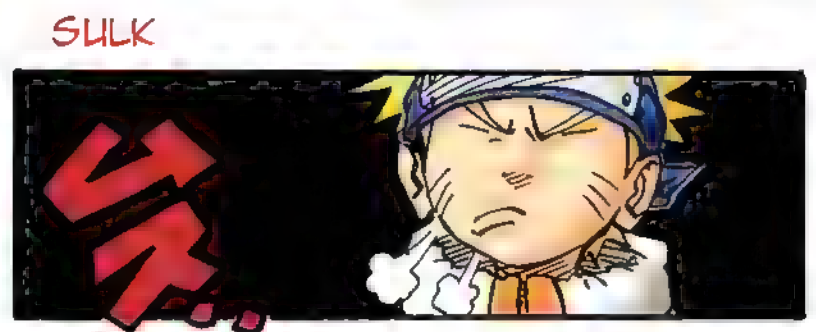


NO TRESPASSING

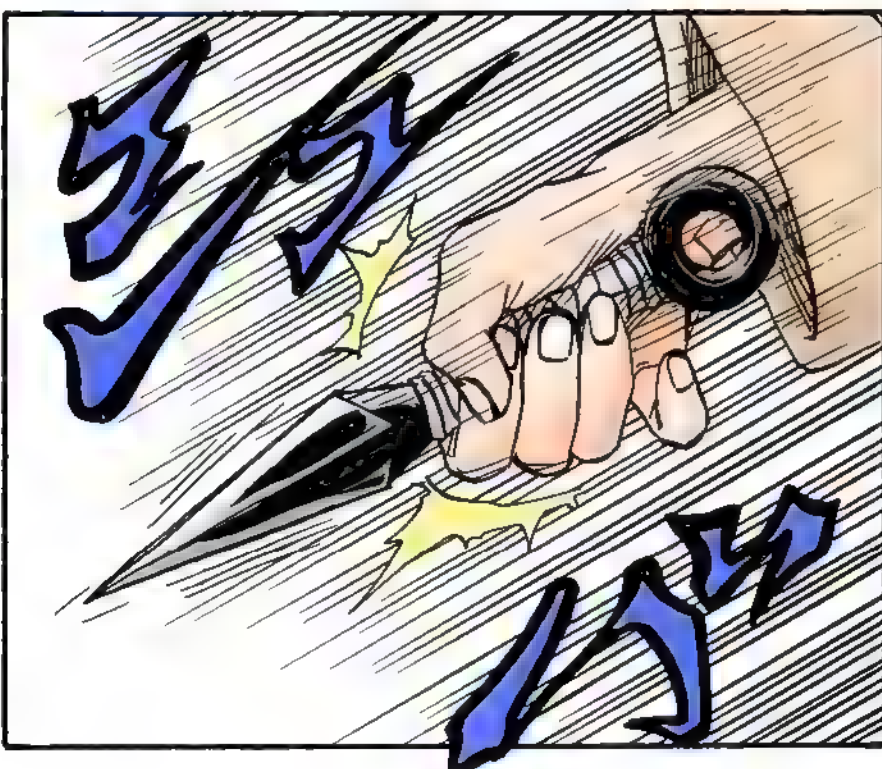








SHING



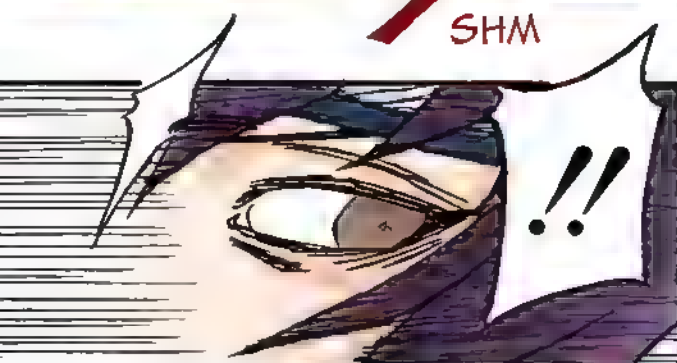
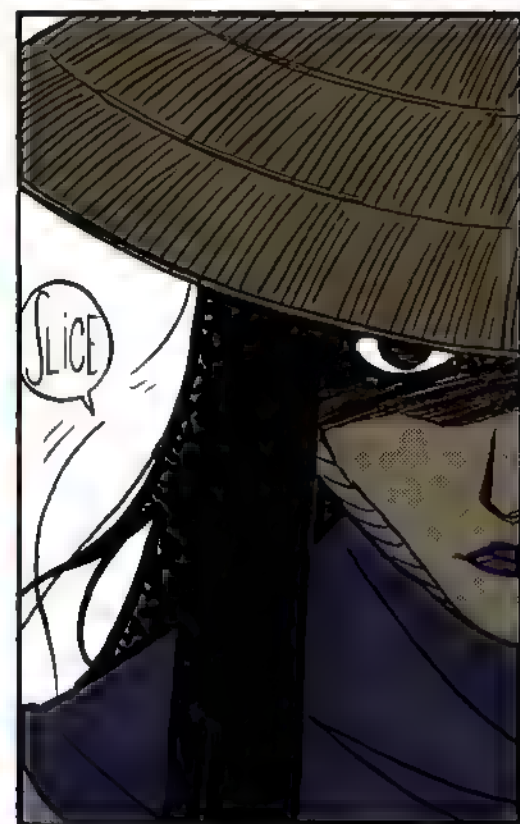
GRIN COLORED





SHF

TAK



SHM



SWIPE



LAP...

COLORED

ANGA.COM





I  
BELIEVE  
YOU  
DROPPED  
IT.

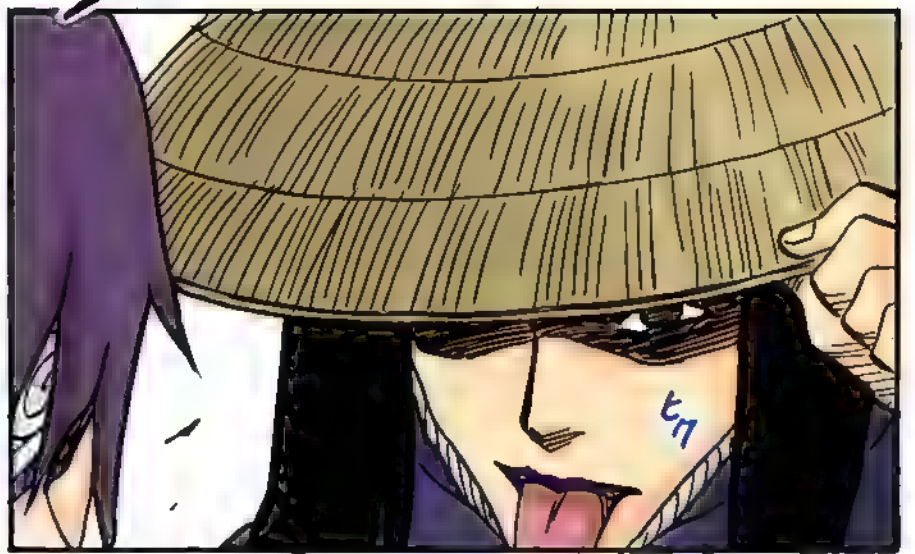
YOUR  
KUNAI  
KNIFE...

SHLUCK

GEE...  
THANKS.



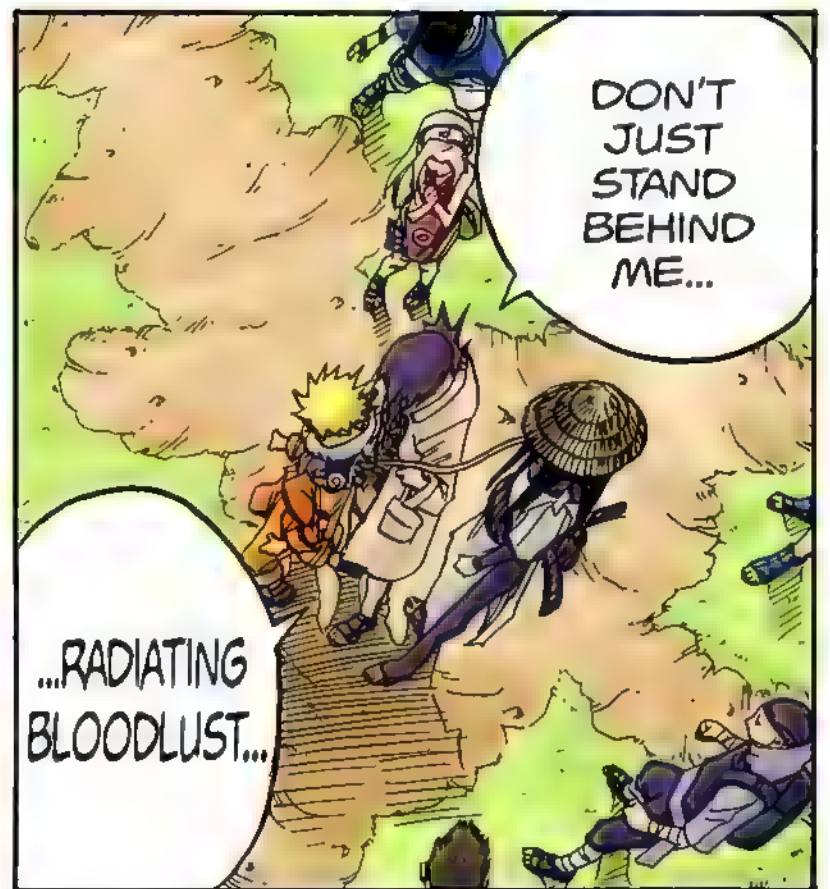
GRRRR



SLUP



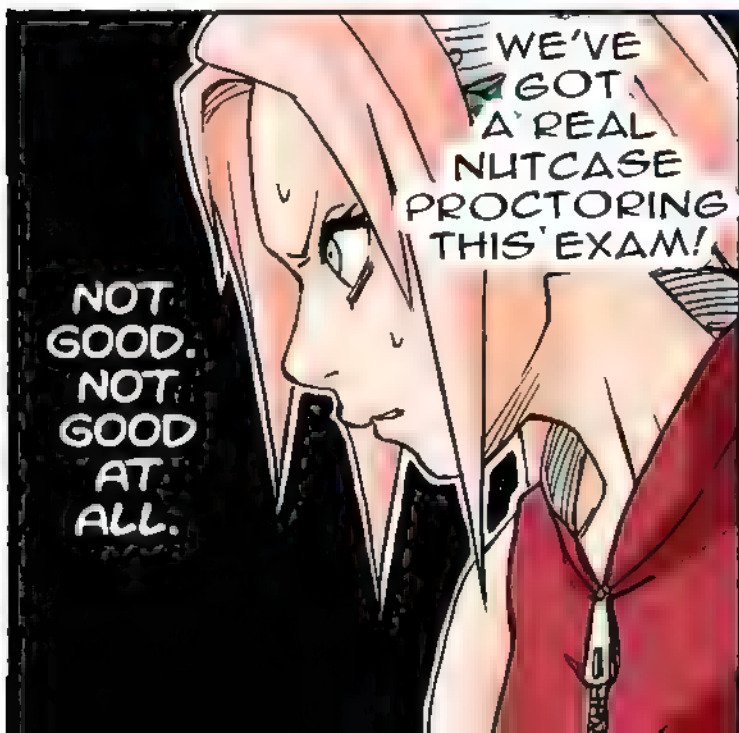
SLUP



SMEK



SHLUCK



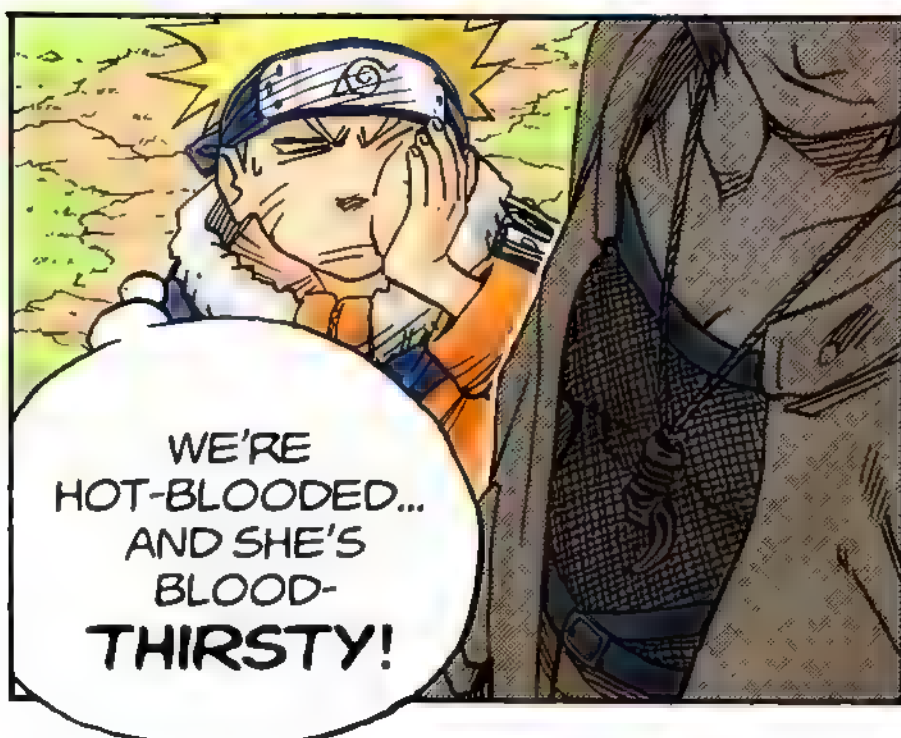
DRED

ANGA.COM





SHHF \* THE CHARACTER ON THE LOINCLOTH READS "CRIME."



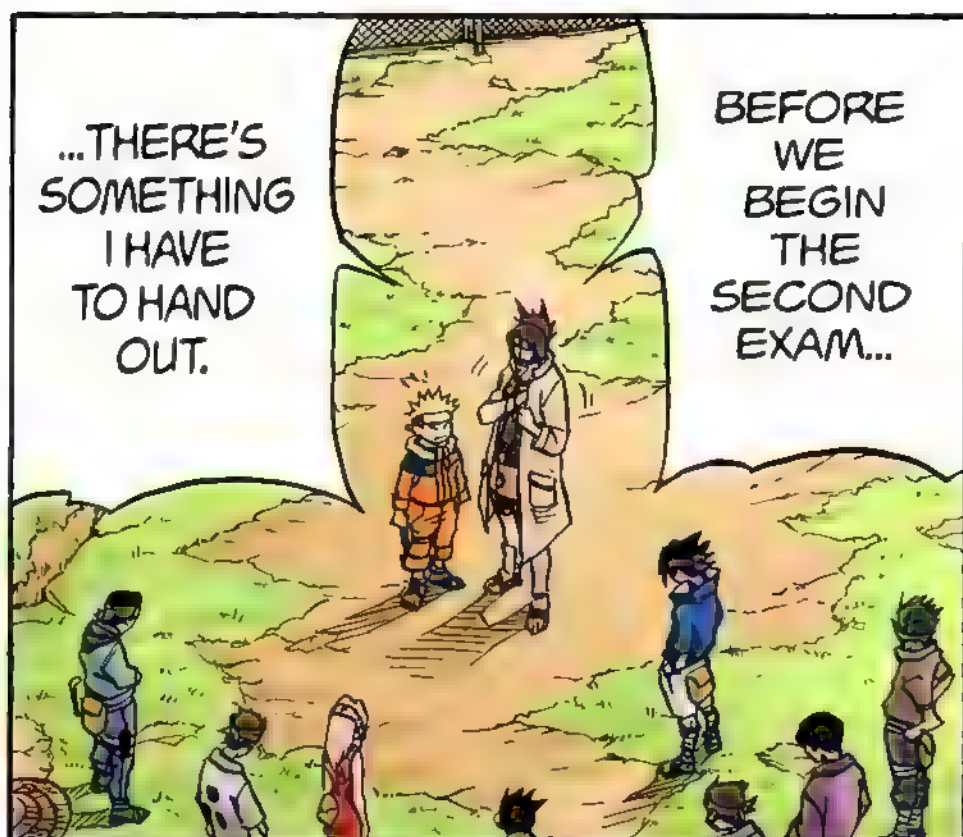
CONSENT FORM



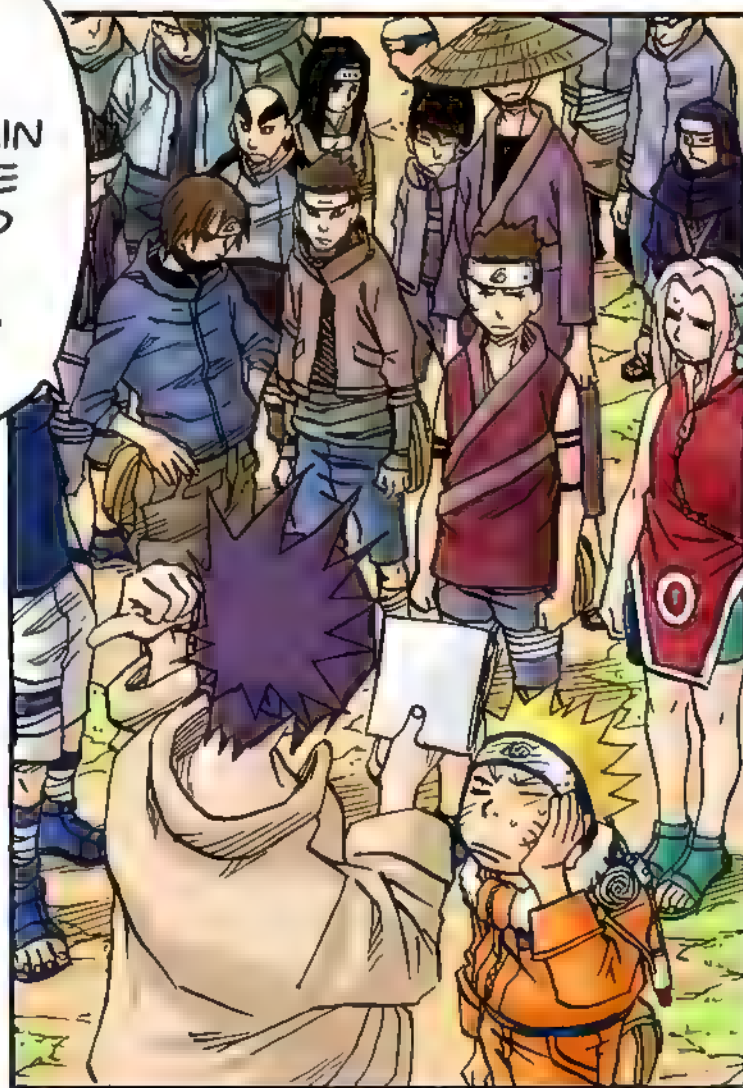
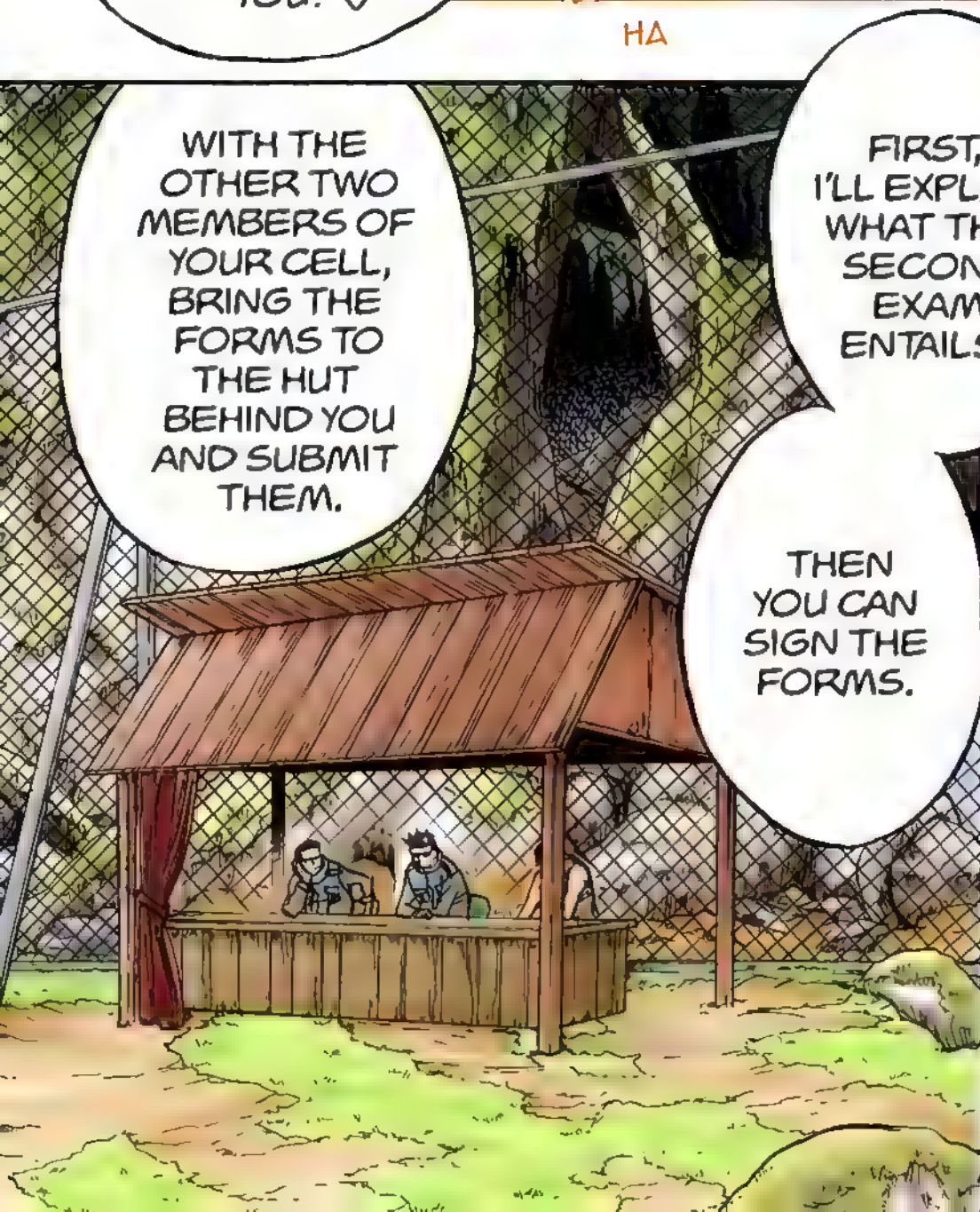
GRIN



FLAP



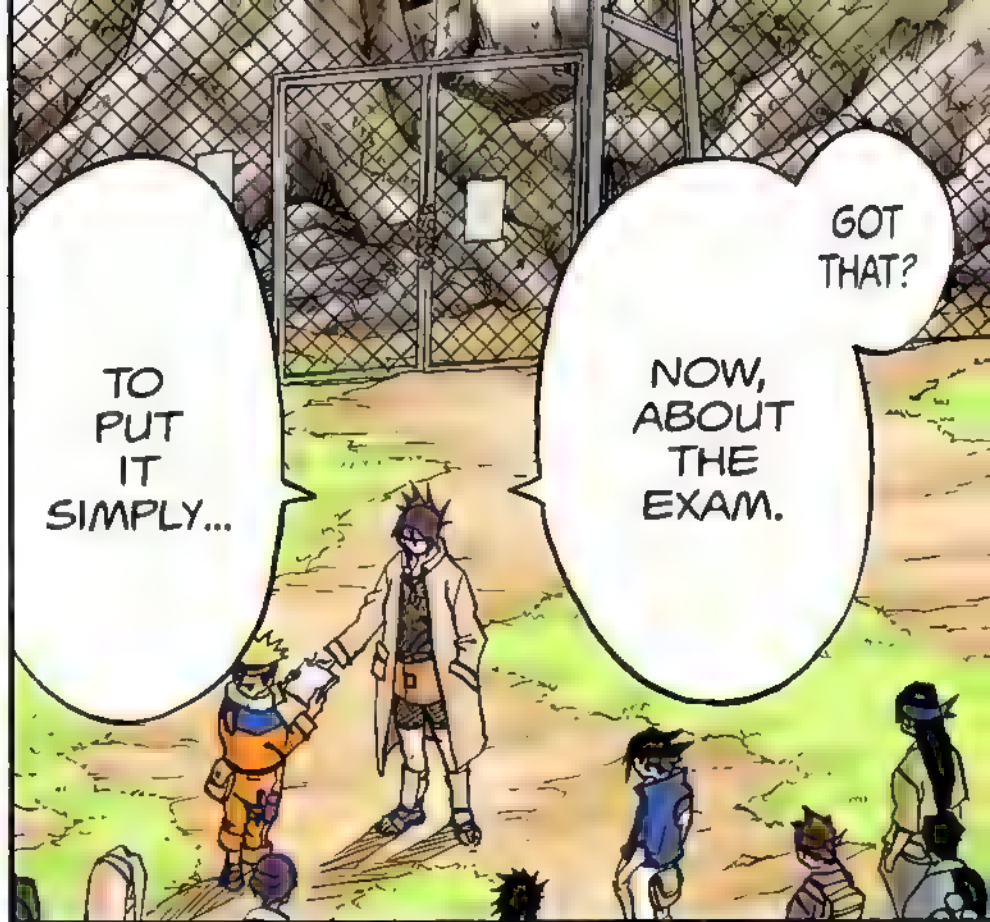








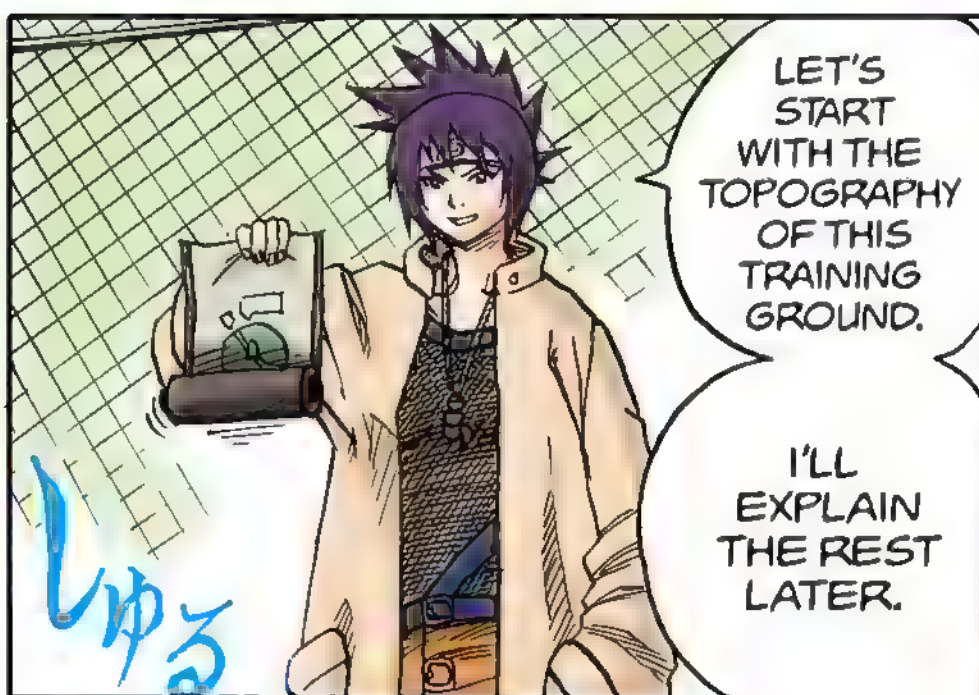
...IT'S A  
NO-HOLDS-  
BARRED  
SURVIVAL  
TEST.



TO  
PUT  
IT  
SIMPLY...

NOW,  
ABOUT  
THE  
EXAM.

GOT  
THAT?



LET'S  
START  
WITH THE  
TOPOGRAPHY  
OF THIS  
TRAINING  
GROUND.

I'LL  
EXPLAIN  
THE REST  
LATER.

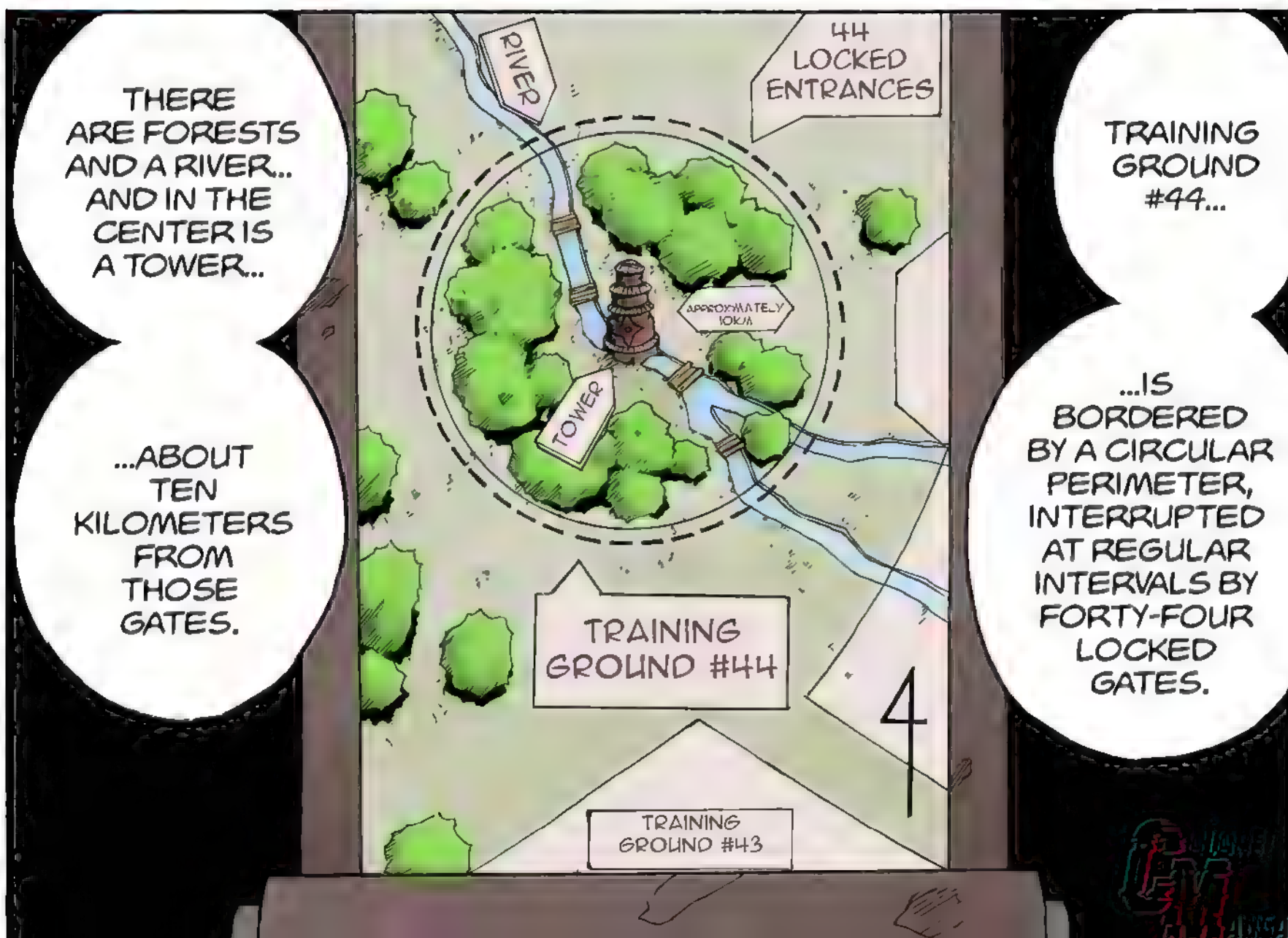


ANOTHER  
PAIN-IN-  
THE-NECK  
EXAM!  
BLEAH!

SURVIVAL,  
EH?

FLAP

FWUP



THERE  
ARE FORESTS  
AND A RIVER...  
AND IN THE  
CENTER IS  
A TOWER...

...ABOUT  
TEN  
KILOMETERS  
FROM  
THOSE  
GATES.

TRAINING  
GROUND  
#44...

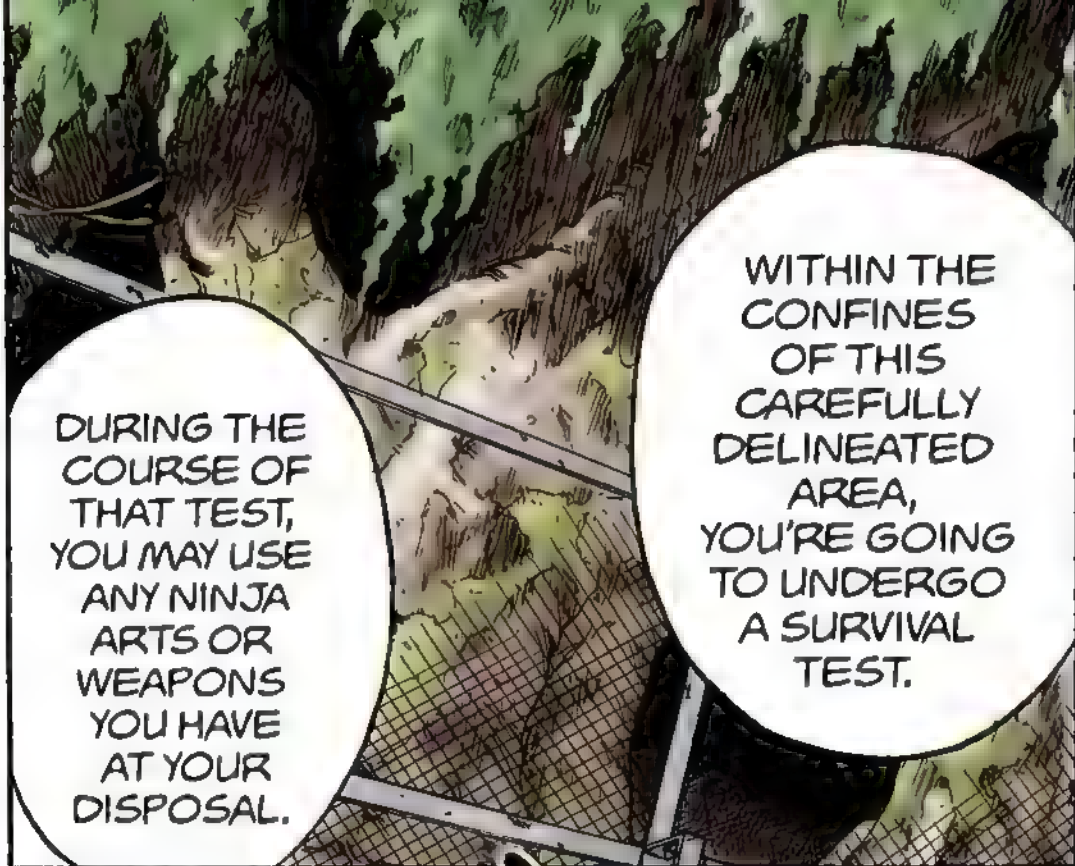
...IS  
BORDERED  
BY A CIRCULAR  
PERIMETER,  
INTERRUPTED  
AT REGULAR  
INTERVALS BY  
FORTY-FOUR  
LOCKED  
GATES.

TRAINING  
GROUND #44

TRAINING  
GROUND #43

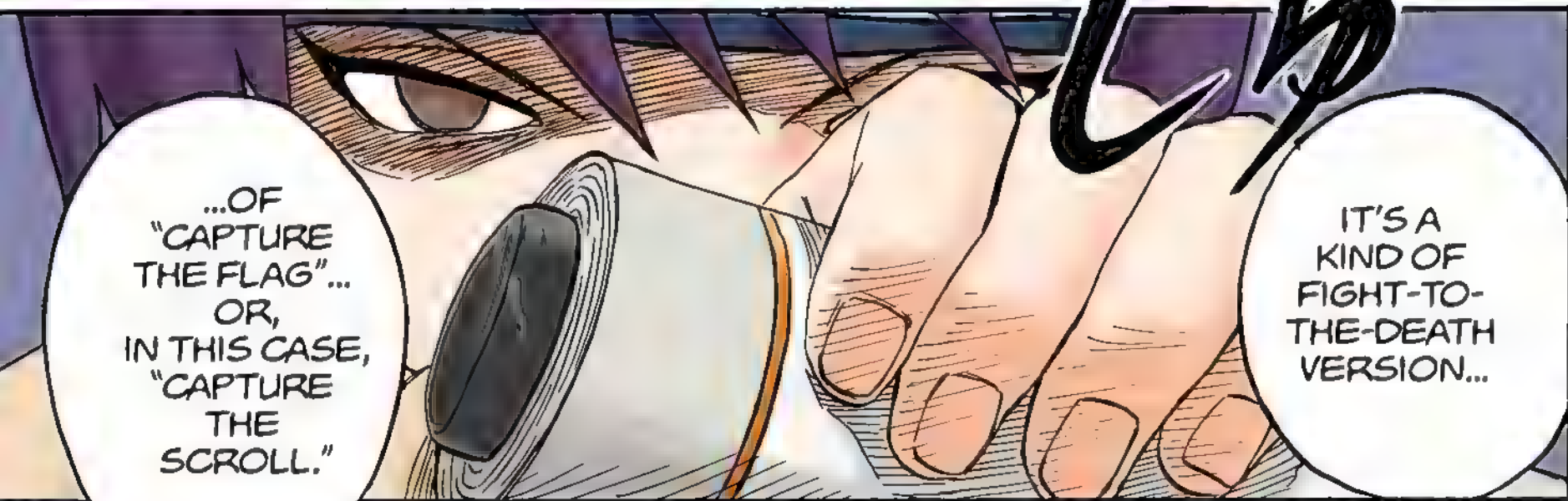
4





DURING THE COURSE OF THAT TEST, YOU MAY USE ANY NINJA ARTS OR WEAPONS YOU HAVE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS CAREFULLY DELINEATED AREA, YOU'RE GOING TO UNDERGO A SURVIVAL TEST.



...OF "CAPTURE THE FLAG"... OR, IN THIS CASE, "CAPTURE THE SCROLL."

IT'S A KIND OF FIGHT-TO-DEATH VERSION...

SHFF

SHF



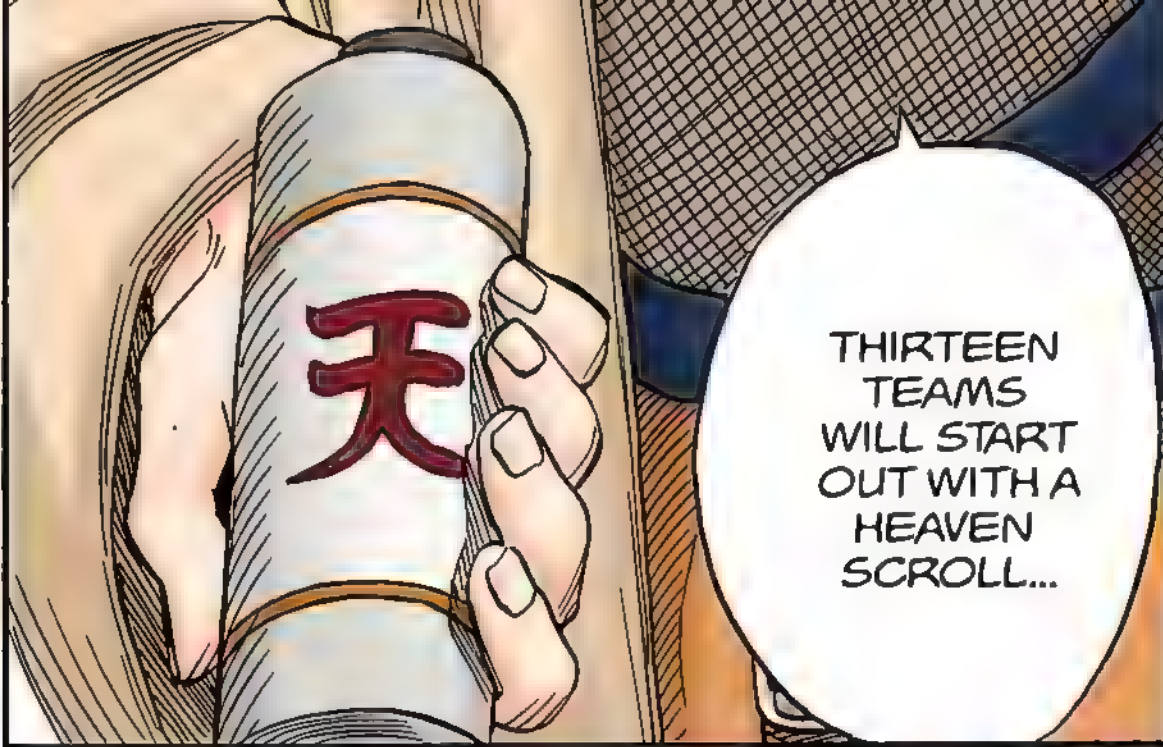
THERE'S A "SCROLL OF HEAVEN" AND A "SCROLL OF EARTH"...AND YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO ACQUIRE BOTH SCROLLS.



SCROLL?

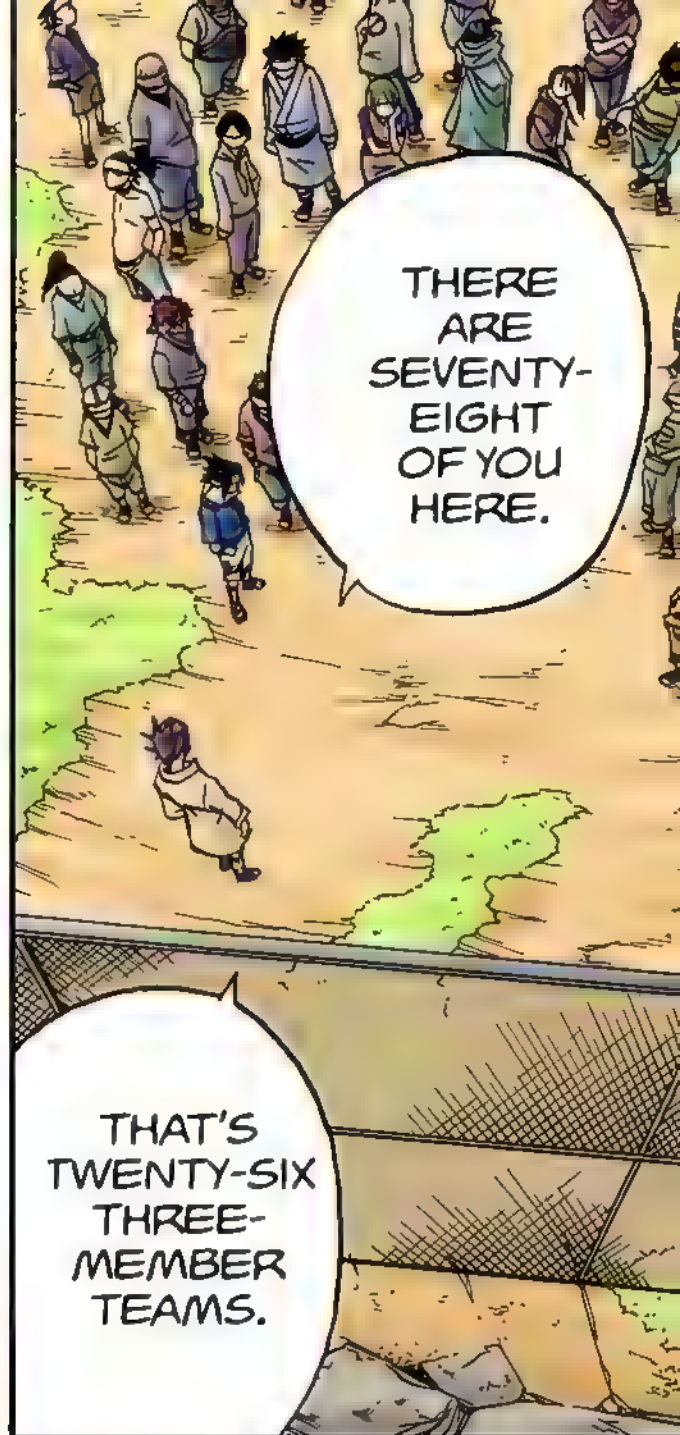
EXACTLY!





THIRTEEN  
TEAMS  
WILL START  
OUT WITH A  
HEAVEN  
SCROLL...

\*THIS SCROLL READS TEN, MEANING "HEAVEN."



THERE  
ARE  
SEVENTY-  
EIGHT  
OF YOU  
HERE.



BUT  
YOU'LL  
NEED  
BOTH  
SCROLLS  
TO  
PASS.

...AND THE  
OTHER  
THIRTEEN  
WILL START  
WITH AN  
EARTH  
SCROLL.

\*THIS SCROLL READS CHI, MEANING "EARTH."



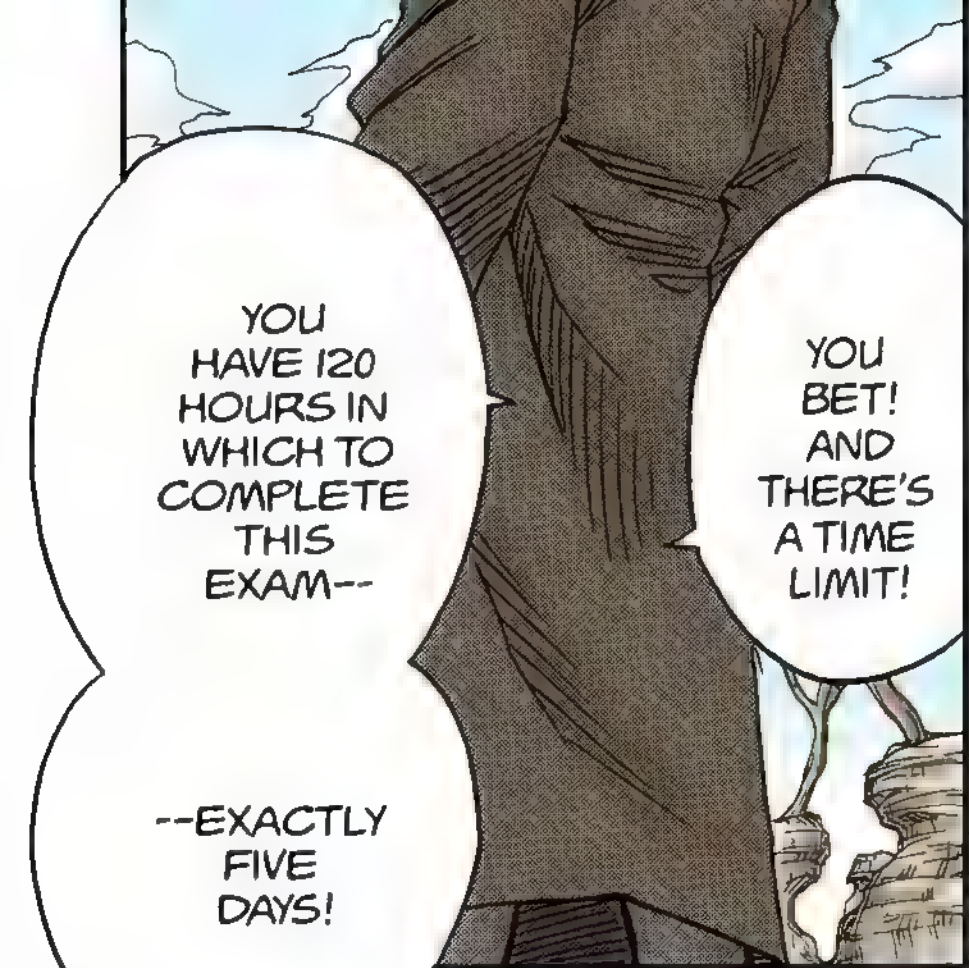
...AND  
THEN  
BRING  
THEM  
BOTH...

...TO  
THE  
TOWER  
AT  
THE  
CENTER.



SO YOUR  
OBJECTIVE  
IS TO HOLD  
ON TO YOUR  
OWN SCROLL,  
GET YOUR  
HANDS ON  
ONE OF THE  
OTHER  
KIND...





YOU  
HAVE 120  
HOURS IN  
WHICH TO  
COMPLETE  
THIS  
EXAM--

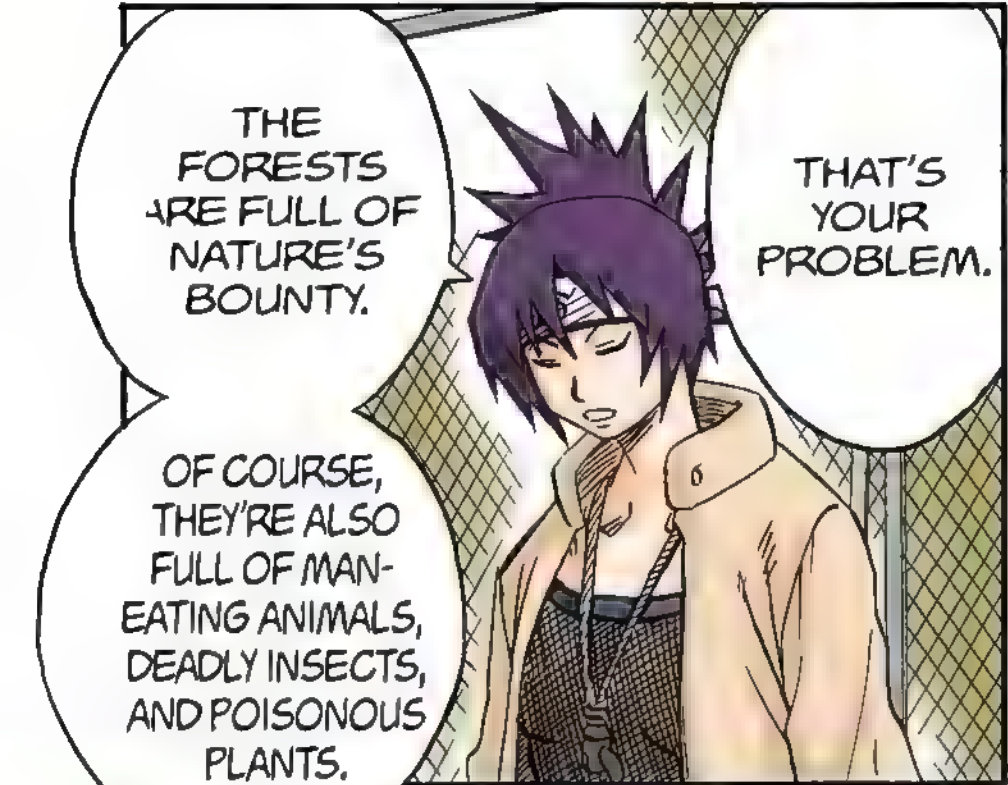
--EXACTLY  
FIVE  
DAYS!

YOU  
BET!  
AND  
THERE'S  
A TIME  
LIMIT!



--THE  
THIRTEEN  
TEAMS  
WHOSE  
SCROLLS  
ARE  
STOLEN--  
WILL FAIL.

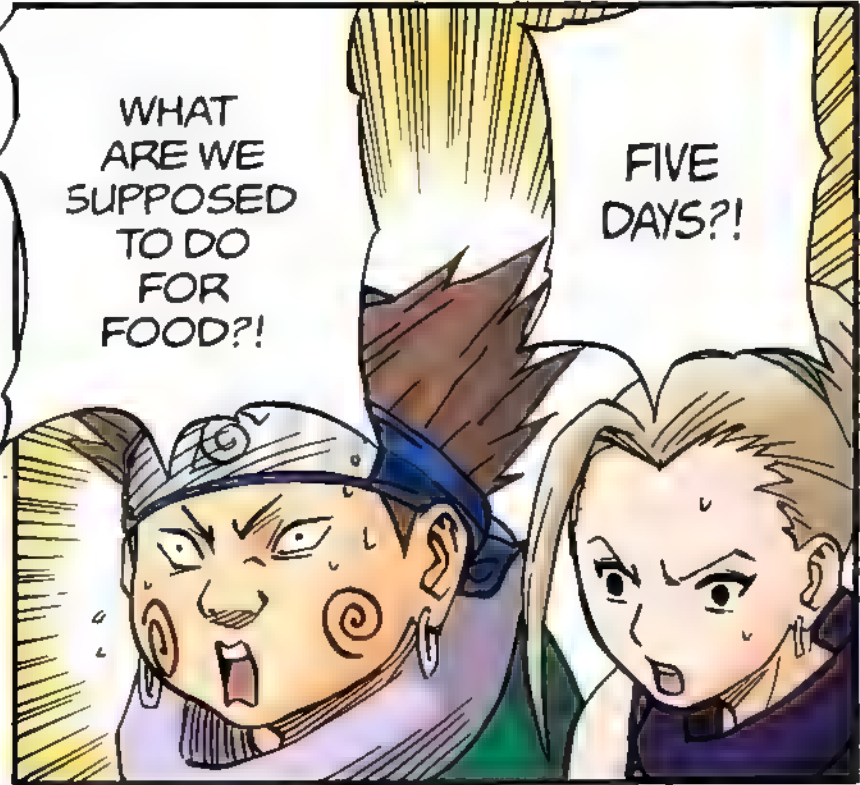
IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,  
AT LEAST  
HALF  
OF US--



THE  
FORESTS  
ARE FULL OF  
NATURE'S  
BOUNTY.

OF COURSE,  
THEY'RE ALSO  
FULL OF MAN-  
EATING ANIMALS,  
DEADLY INSECTS,  
AND POISONOUS  
PLANTS.

THAT'S  
YOUR  
PROBLEM.



WHAT  
ARE WE  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO  
FOR  
FOOD?!

FIVE  
DAYS?!



YOU'LL BE  
SURROUNDED  
BY ENEMIES  
AT ALL TIMES,  
SO YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
SLEEP WITH  
ONE EYE  
OPEN.

...WITH  
LESS  
RECOVERY  
TIME FOR  
ANY MISTAKES,  
ACCIDENTS,  
OR  
INJURIES.

AS THE  
TIME  
SHORTENS,  
THE TRIALS  
WILL COME  
HARDER  
AND  
FASTER..

THERE'S  
NO WAY  
AS MANY AS  
THIRTEEN  
TEAMS  
WILL PASS  
THIS.

SIGH

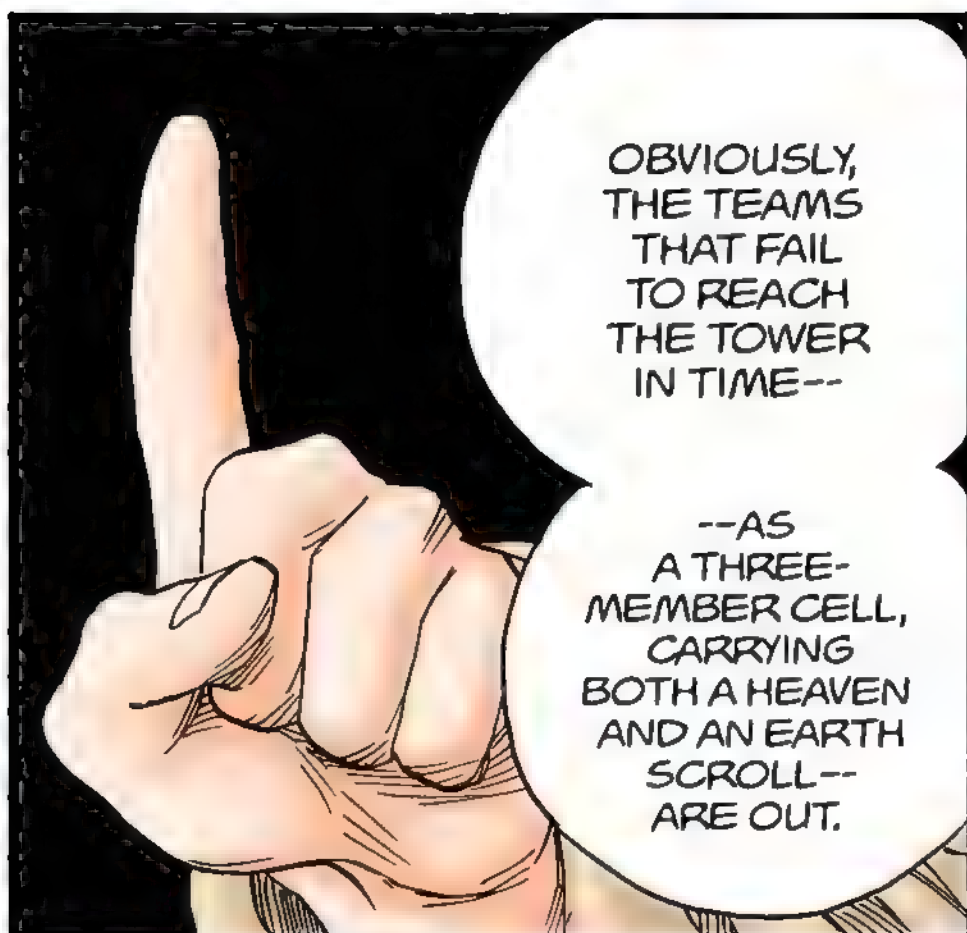




...SOME  
OF YOU ARE  
BOUND TO  
SUCCUMB TO  
EXHAUSTION,  
EXPOSURE,  
STARVATION,  
AND  
DEHYDRATION.

SO, IN  
ADDITION  
TO THOSE  
WHO DIE IN  
ATTEMPTS TO  
DEFEND OR  
CAPTURE  
A SCROLL...

WAVE

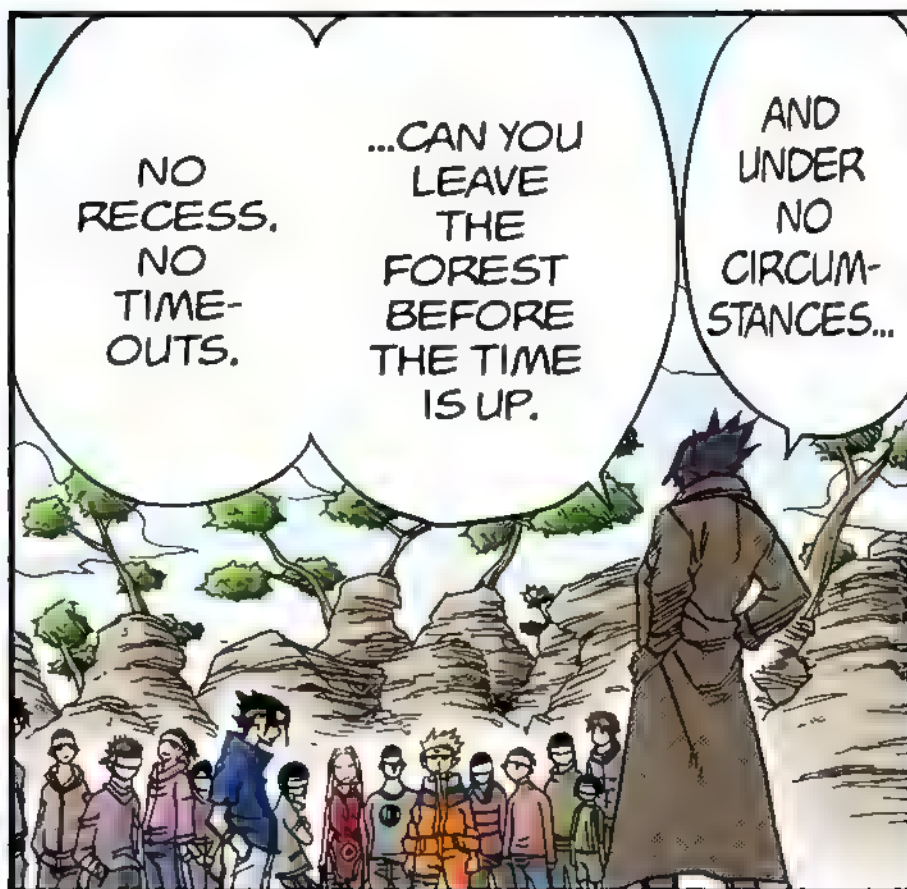


OBVIOUSLY,  
THE TEAMS  
THAT FAIL  
TO REACH  
THE TOWER  
IN TIME--

--AS  
A THREE-  
MEMBER CELL,  
CARRYING  
BOTH A HEAVEN  
AND AN EARTH  
SCROLL--  
ARE OUT.



NOW LET'S  
TALK ABOUT  
THE RULES...  
AND WHAT  
OFFENSES  
YOU CAN BE  
DISQUALIFIED  
FOR!



NO  
RECESS.  
NO  
TIME-  
OUTS.

...CAN YOU  
LEAVE  
THE  
FOREST  
BEFORE  
THE TIME  
IS UP.

AND  
UNDER  
NO  
CIRCUM-  
STANCES...



SO IS  
ANY TEAM  
THAT LOSES  
A MEMBER,  
WHETHER  
TO DEATH OR  
TO SEVERE  
INJURY.





...YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THE SCROLLS UNTIL YOU'RE INSIDE THE TOWER!

ALSO...



THAT'S FOR THOSE WHO LOOK TO KNOW!  
♡



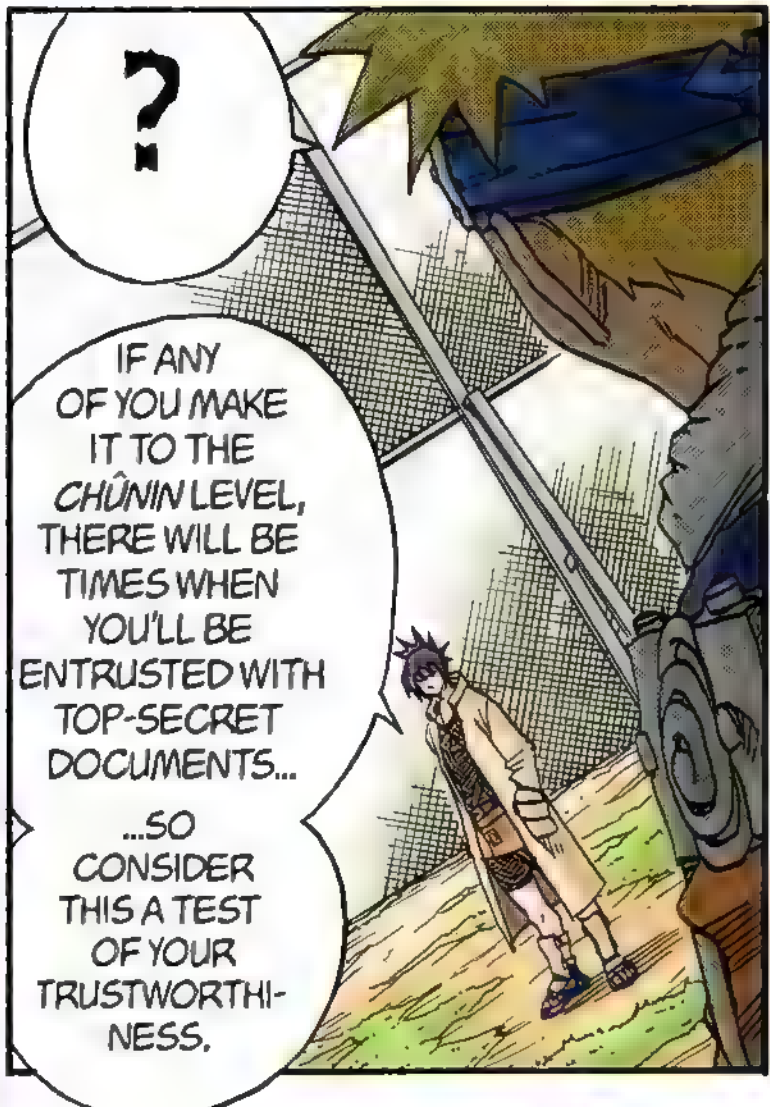
WHAT HAPPENS IF WE SNEAK A PEEK?



WE'LL TRADE ONE SCROLL FOR EVERY THREE FORMS.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT YOURS, CHOOSE THE GATE YOU WANT TO START FROM. EVERYONE WILL BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME.

THAT'S ALL THE EXPLANATION YOU GET.

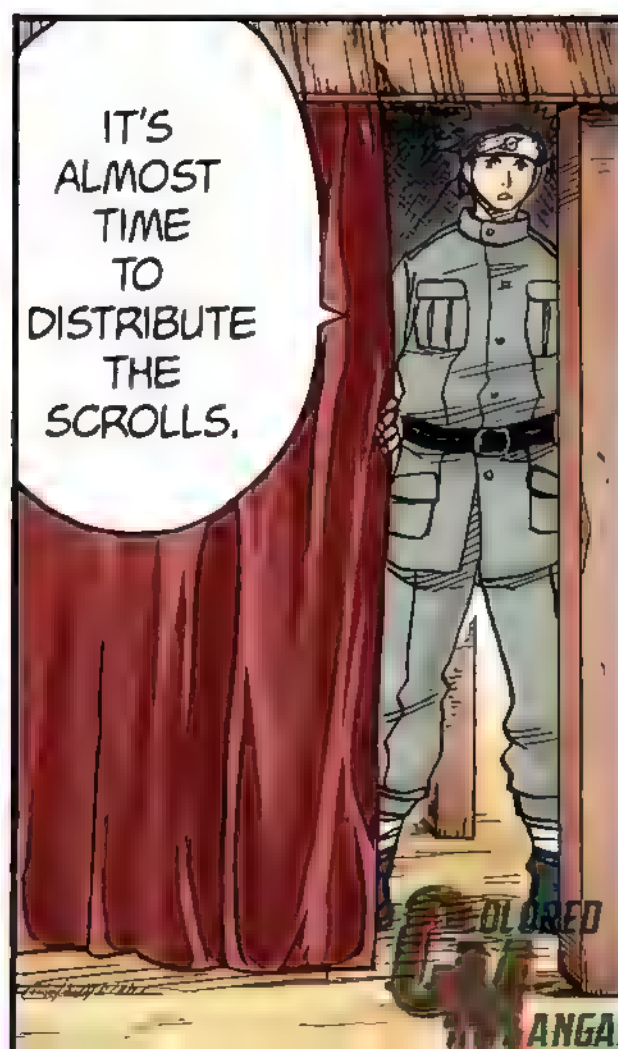
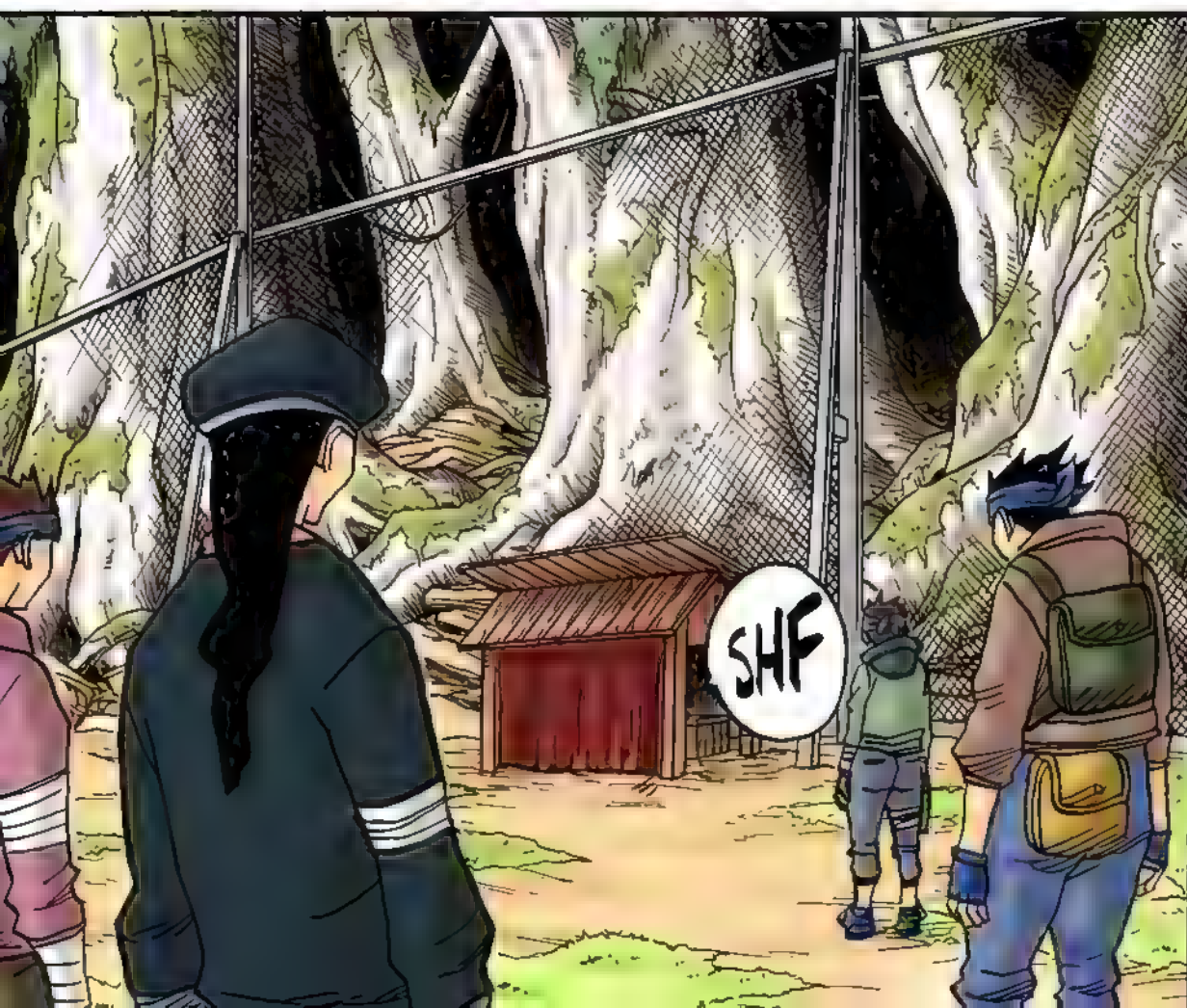


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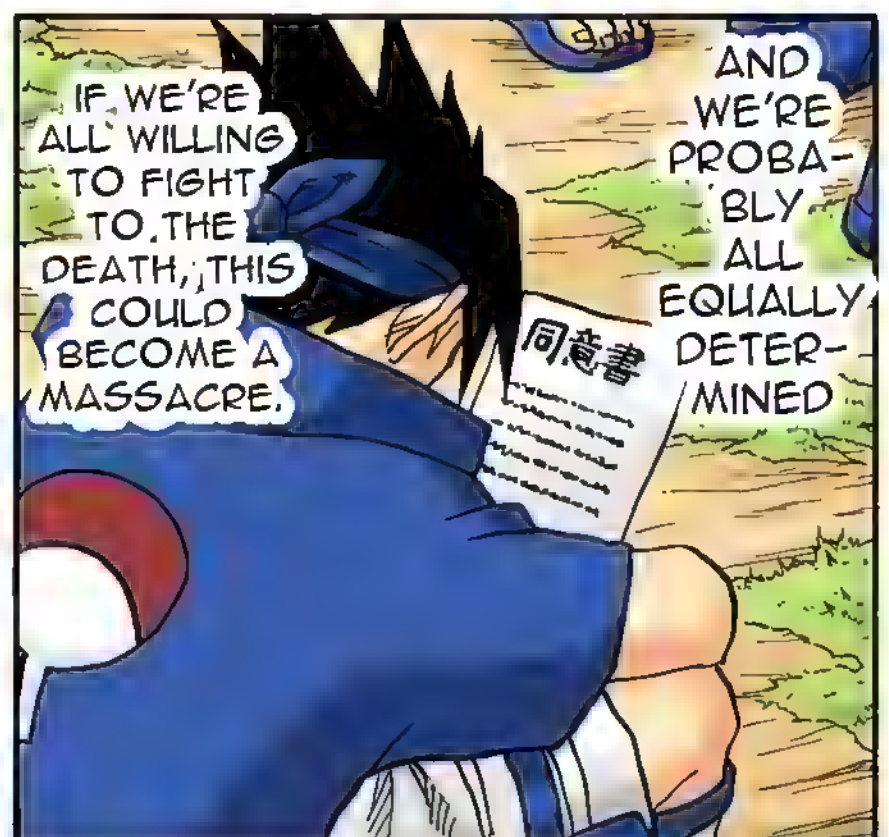
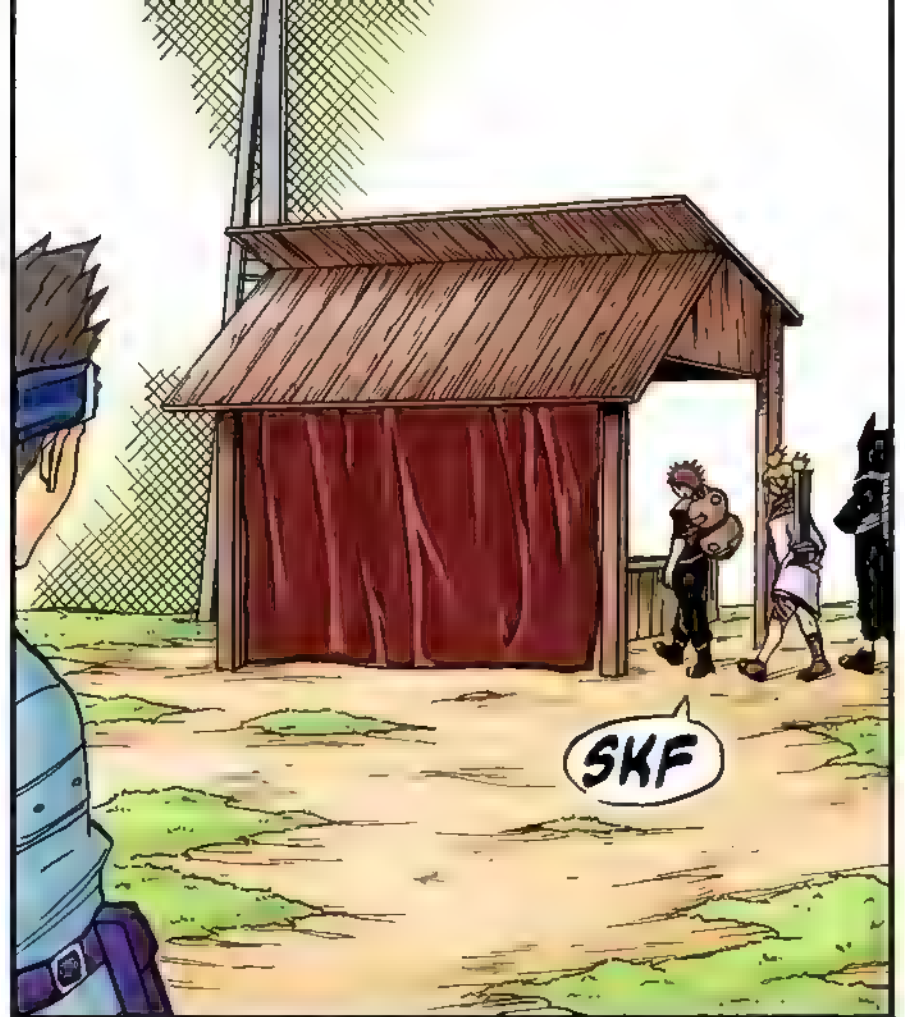
IF ANY OF YOU MAKE IT TO THE CHŪNIN LEVEL, THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN YOU'LL BE ENTRUSTED WITH TOP-SECRET DOCUMENTS...

...SO CONSIDER THIS A TEST OF YOUR TRUSTWORTHINESS.

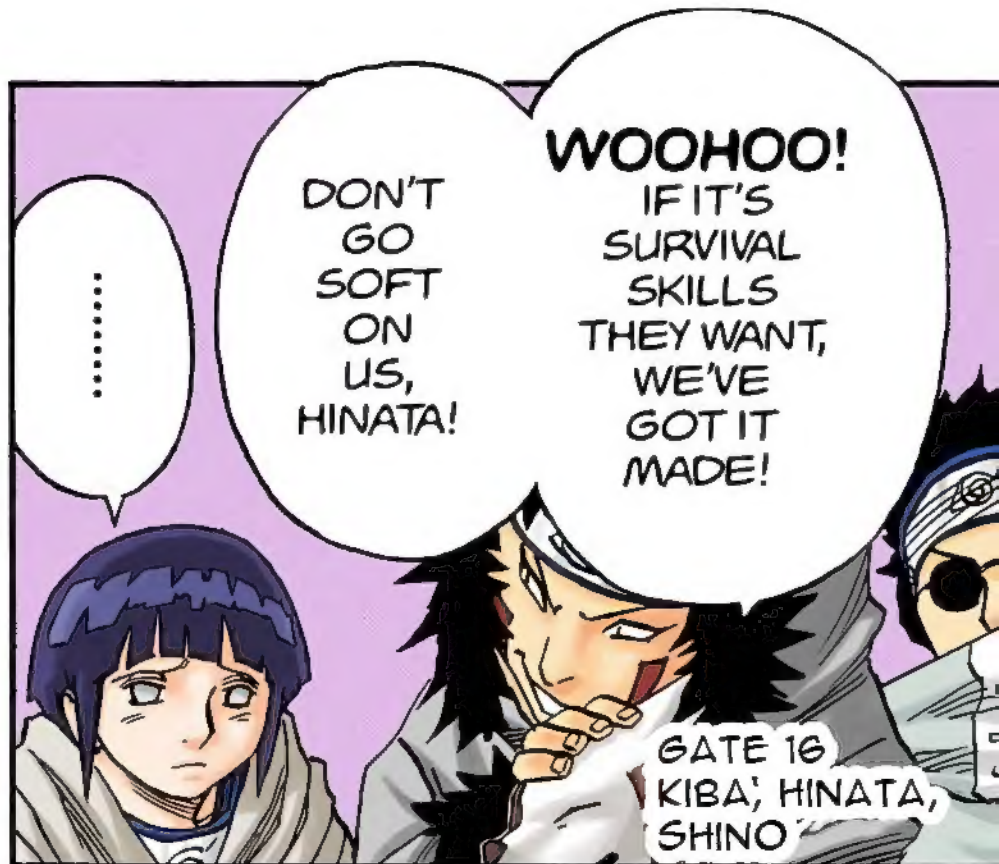




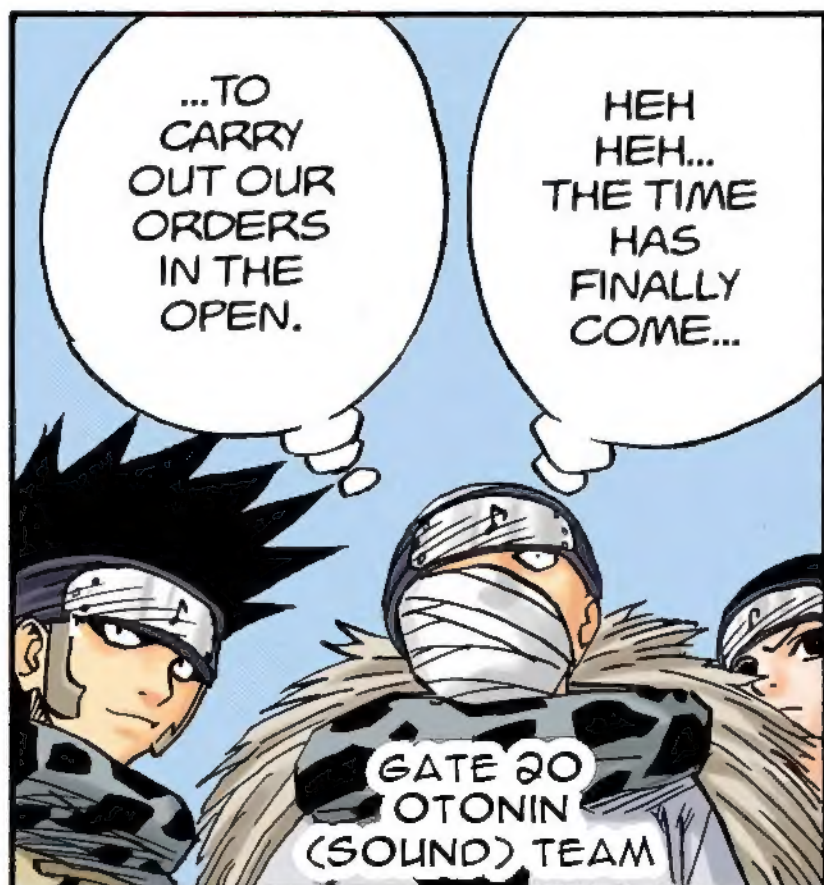








GRUMBLE



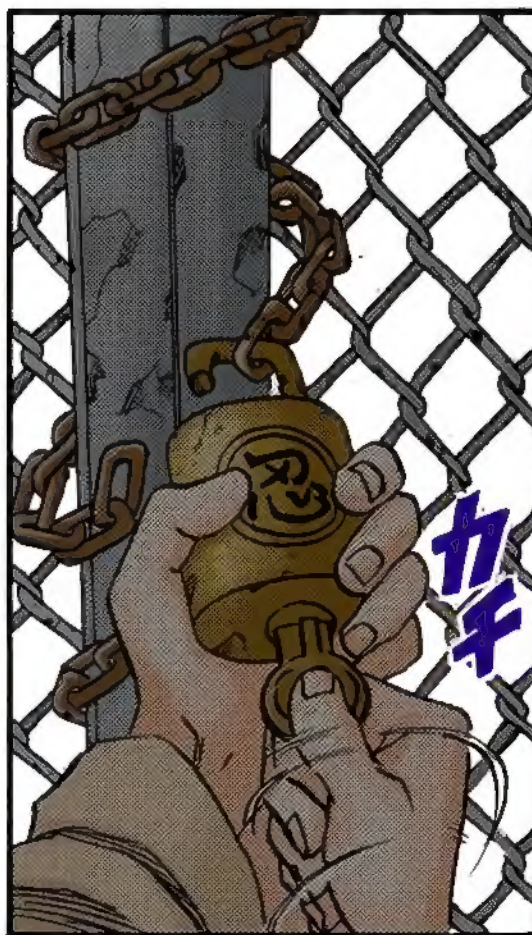
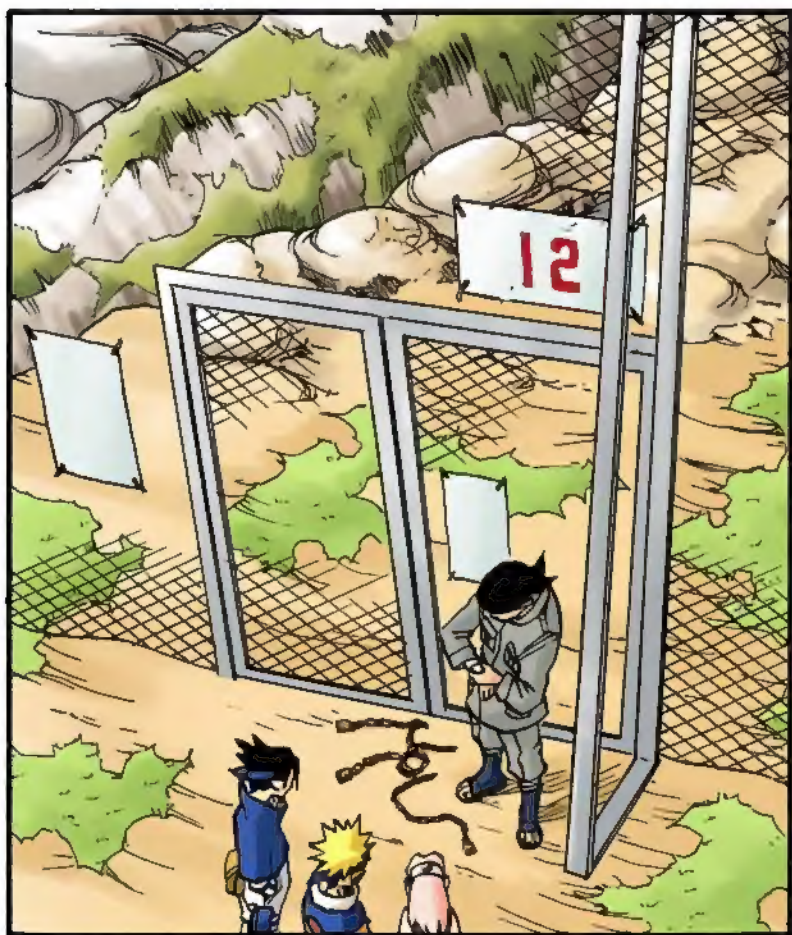




\*THE TAGS ON THE HATS READ (RIGHT TO LEFT) "CRIME," "EVIL," AND "PUNISHMENT."





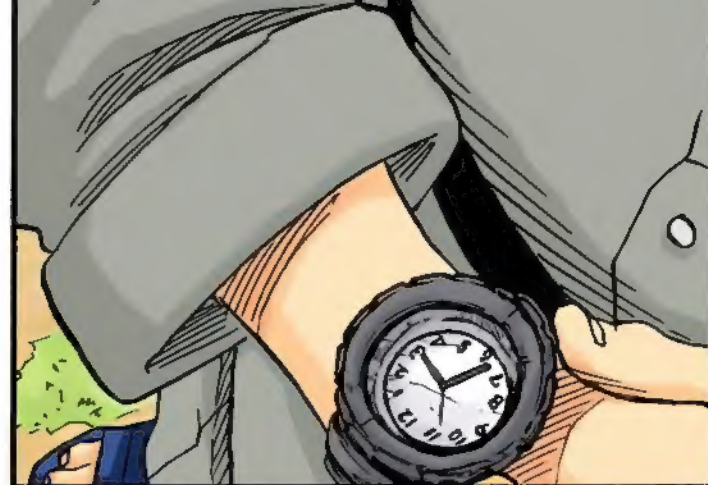


CLICK

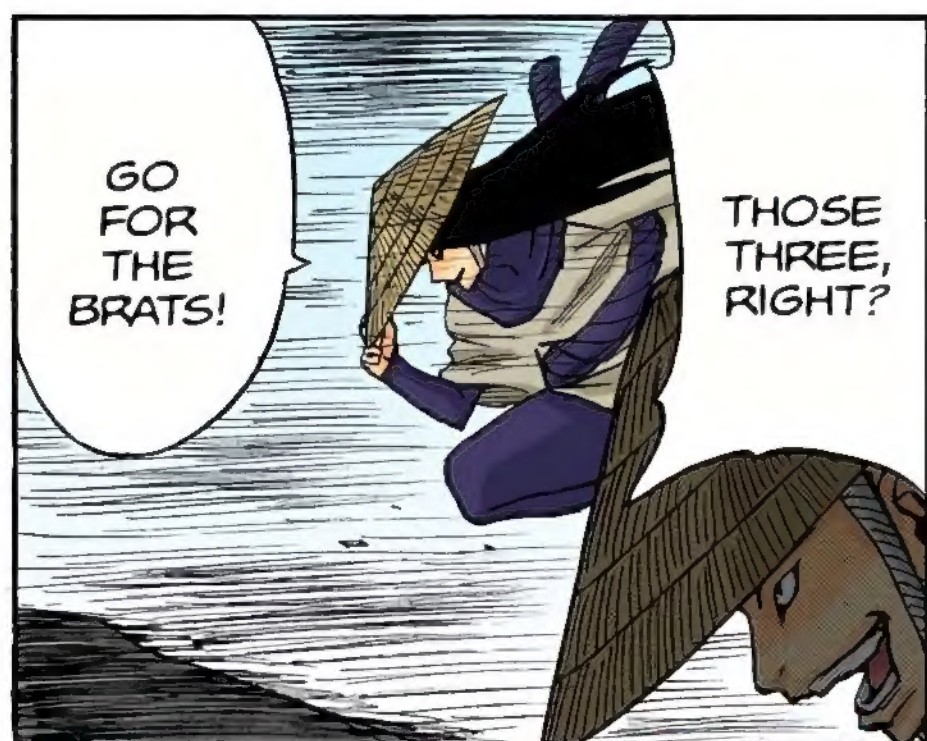




PART  
TWO  
OF THE  
JOURNEYMAN  
NINJA  
SELECTION  
EXAM  
BEGINS...

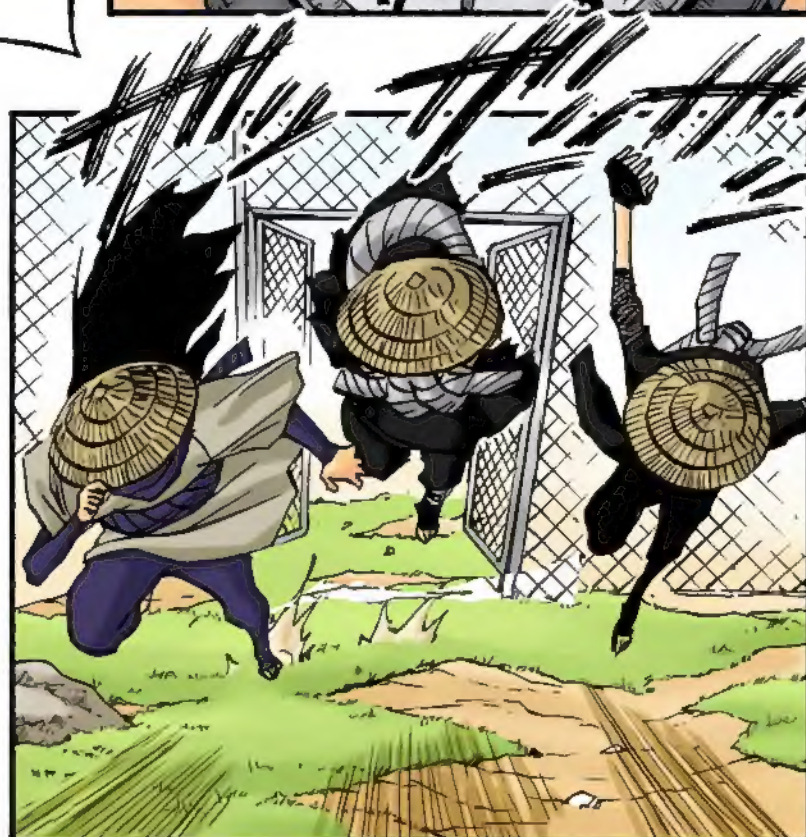


KATCH



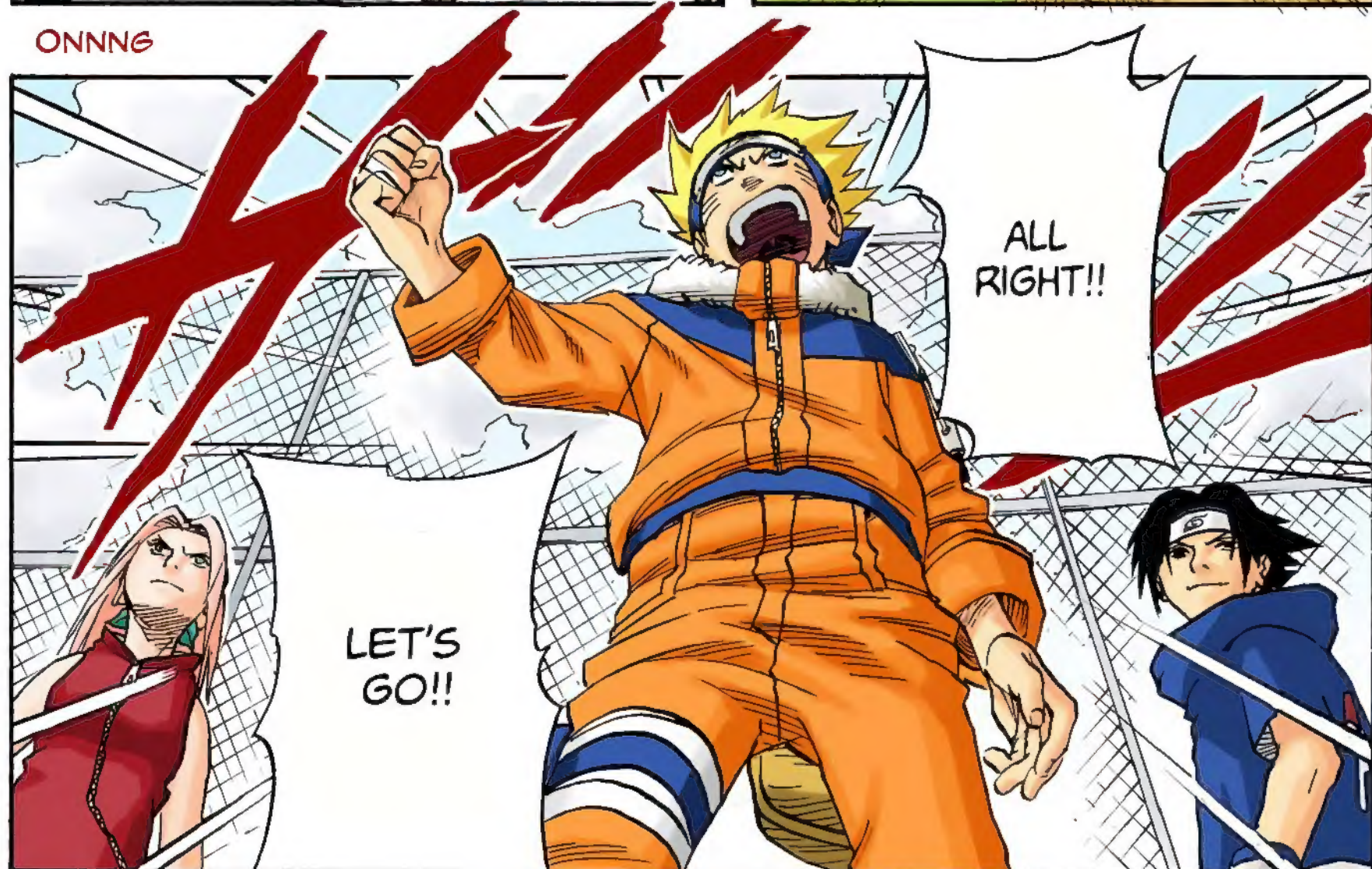
GO  
FOR  
THE  
BRATS!

THOSE  
THREE,  
RIGHT?



TAK  
TAK  
TAK

ONNNG



ALL  
RIGHT!!

LET'S  
GO!!